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**BILL NO.:**           **HB 824**

**TITLE:**             Public Schools - Cyber Safety Guide and Training Course -  
Development, Implementation, and Reporting

**SPONSOR:**         Delegate Young

**COMMITTEE:**      Ways and Means

**POSITION:**       **SUPPORT**

**DATE:**             February 12, 2021

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 824 – Public Schools - Cyber Safety Guide and Training Course - Development, Implementation, and Reporting. This legislation would mandate cybersecurity training for students, parents, and school employees.

The recent cyberattack on BCPS reinforced the ever-present need for enhanced literacy in cyber safety. In a time when internet services are inextricably linked with school functions, BCPS had to rapidly bring the network back online. It is an expensive, time consuming process, one which can be prevented with adequate training and awareness of online threats.

Ransomware and other cyberattacks have become more common in the past year as more businesses and public entities have moved services online. The second half of 2020 saw a 91% increase in cyberattacks compared to the first half of the year. The expansion of cybersecurity education is a necessary measure to adapt to the current technological landscape and maintain the safety of teachers and students across the State.

By mandating programming in cyber safety, HB 824 promotes the security of students' data and the continuity of schools' services. Proactive legislation such as this is key to keeping schools safe.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 824. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Director of Government Affairs, at [cconner@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:cconner@baltimorecountymd.gov).