



Maryland Municipal League
The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns

TESTIMONY

March 1, 2022

Committee: House Health and Government Operations

Bill: HB 5- State Government – State and Local Government Employees and Contractors – Cybersecurity Training

Position: Support with Amendment

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League supports HB 5 with amendments. As introduced, the bill mandates local government employees to complete State-approved cybersecurity trainings at least four times per year.

The League appreciates the sponsors intent to create a training program for local governments to better protect resident data and our systems. In conversations with the sponsor, we understand the intent was even to make these programs available for free. This would be a great example of the type of resources MML has advocated for the past several sessions.

We do believe, however, that the bill needs clarity to ensure this program would be free to municipal employees. Our members would also appreciate amendments to ensure the content of the trainings developed by the MCCC are applicable to local government and be created in consultation with local government. Further, in cases where municipalities already retain a vendor to provide these functions, we would ask that it fulfill the requirements of the bill as to not be duplicative. Still yet, cities and towns would request the discretion to set the schedules for trainings as it relates to the needs of their employees.

Therefore, the League respectfully requests time to continue working with the sponsor and committee on amendments and provide HB 5 with a favorable report.

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Suggested Amendment Language for House Bill 76
(Based on 2021 compromise in the Senate with SB 841)

Add:

Article - Tax - Property

6-302.

(b) (1) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, §§ 6-305 and 6-306 of this subtitle and § 6-203 of this title:

(i) there shall be a single county property tax rate for all real property subject to county property tax except for operating real property described in § 8-109(c) of this article; [and]

(ii) the county tax rate applicable to personal property and the operating real property described in § 8-109(c) of this article shall be no more than 2.5 times the rate for real property; **AND**

(III) THE COUNTY TAX RATE APPLICABLE TO SOLAR ENERGY PROPERTY PERSONAL PROPERTY THAT IS A COMMUNITY SOLAR ENERGY GENERATING SYSTEM DESCRIBED UNDER § 8-101(C) OF THIS ARTICLE MAY BE A DIFFERENT RATE FROM THE COUNTY TAX RATE APPLICABLE TO OTHER PERSONAL PROPERTY, SUBJECT TO THE LIMITATION UNDER ITEM (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH.

Replace 7-237 (C)(2) with:

(2) THE GOVERNING BODY OF A COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION MAY EXEMPT, BY LAW, PERSONAL PROPERTY THAT IS A COMMUNITY SOLAR ENERGY GENERATING SYSTEM FROM THE COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION PROPERTY TAX IF THE PERSONAL PROPERTY IS:

(I) PART OF A COMMUNITY SOLAR ENERGY GENERATING SYSTEM THAT PROVIDES AT LEAST 50% OF THE ENERGY IT PRODUCES TO LOW- OR MODERATE-INCOME CUSTOMERS, AS DEFINED IN REGULATIONS OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION, AT A COST THAT IS AT LEAST 20% LESS THAN THE AMOUNT CHARGED BY THE ELECTRIC COMPANY THAT SERVES THE AREA WHERE THE COMMUNITY SOLAR ENERGY GENERATING SYSTEM IS LOCATED; AND

(II) INSTALLED ON A ROOFTOP, PARKING FACILITY CANOPY, OR BROWNFIELD.