



**HOUSE HEALTH AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

**House Bill 5**

**State Government – State and Local Government Employees and Contractors –  
Cybersecurity Training**

**March 1, 2022**

**Favorable with Amendment**

**Michael Eismeier, Assistant Vice Chancellor for IT**

Delegate Pendergrass and committee members, thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts on House Bill 5. House Bill 5 requires quarterly cybersecurity training developed and prescribed by the Maryland Cybersecurity Coordinating Council.

The University System of Maryland (USM) agrees wholeheartedly that IT security training is an integral part of securing State and university IT systems. The USM has developed cybersecurity policies approved by the Board of Regents appropriate for higher education institutions that are in keeping with this bill and statute requiring USM to remain functionally compatible with State of Maryland IT policy, which requires annual training. Included in USM's IT Security Standards, to which all USM institutions are audited by Maryland Office of Legislative Audits, USM Internal Audits and 3rd party auditors, is the requirement to develop and execute a cybersecurity training and awareness program.

House Bill 5 would require that USM institutions accommodate the quarterly training in addition to the more tailored trainings being done institutionally that are more specifically geared to the needs of higher education. It is likely that USM institutions would need to hire additional staff to administer the quarterly training requirement. In addition, the bill has the training being developed and set by the Maryland Cybersecurity Coordinating Council (MCCC). That council is a part of the executive branch, and public higher education has not typically fallen under that council.

The USM respectfully requests an amendment to be exempted from the requirements called for under House Bill 5.

Thank you for allowing the USM to share these concerns regarding House Bill 5.



## **About the University System of Maryland**

The University System of Maryland (USM)—one system made up of 12 institutions, three regional centers, and a central office—awards 8 out of every 10 bachelor’s degrees in the State of Maryland. The USM is governed by a Board of Regents, comprised of 21 members from diverse professional and personal backgrounds. The chancellor, Dr. Jay Perman, oversees and manages the operations of USM. However, each constituent institution is run by its own president who has authority over that university. Each of USM’s 12 institutions has a distinct and unique approach to the mission of educating students and promoting the economic, intellectual, and cultural growth of its surrounding community. These institutions are located throughout the state, from western Maryland to the Eastern Shore, with the flagship campus in the Washington suburbs. The USM includes Historically Black Colleges and Universities, comprehensive institutions, research universities, and the country’s largest public online institution.

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