

Chapter 218

(Senate Bill 867)

AN ACT concerning

Cyber Maryland Program – Revisions

FOR the purpose of transferring the Cyber Maryland Program from the Maryland Technology Development Corporation to the Maryland Department of Labor; altering the duties of the Program; requiring the Program to award certain competitive grants and contracts; altering the purposes for which the Cyber Maryland Fund may be used; altering certain funding requirements related to the Program; ~~requiring that unused balances from certain programs and funds be transferred to the Program at the close of the fiscal year~~; altering the membership of the Cyber Maryland Board; and generally relating to the Cyber Maryland Program.

BY transferring

Article – Economic Development

Section 10–491 and the part “Part XI. Miscellaneous”

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2024 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

to be

Article – Labor and Employment

Section 11–1701 and the subtitle “Subtitle 17. Miscellaneous”

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2016 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Labor and Employment

Section 11–1701 to be under the amended subtitle “Subtitle 17. Cyber Maryland Program”

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2016 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

(As enacted by Section 1 of this Act)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That Section(s) 10–491 and the part “Part XI. Miscellaneous” of Article – Economic Development of the Annotated Code of Maryland be transferred to be Section(s) 11–1701 and the subtitle “Subtitle 17. Miscellaneous” of Article – Labor and Employment of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Labor and Employment

Subtitle 17. [Miscellaneous] **CYBER MARYLAND PROGRAM.**

11–1701.

(a) [(1)] In this [section] **SUBTITLE** the following words have the meanings indicated.

[(2)] (B) “Board” means the Cyber Maryland Board.

[(3)] (C) “Fund” means the Cyber Maryland Fund.

[(4)] (D) “Program” means the Cyber Maryland Program.

11–1702.

[(b)] (A) There is a Cyber Maryland Program in the [Corporation] **DEPARTMENT.**

[(c)] (B) The purposes of the Program are to:

(1) create and execute a talent pipeline that materially reduces workforce vacancies by July 1, 2026;

(2) serve as a one–stop shop for employers seeking to leverage cyber workforce development programs offered by the State and its partners;

(3) inform cybersecurity training and education programs operated by public or private entities with industry–driven needs;

(4) build the most advanced local and State information technology workforce in the nation, which, to the maximum extent possible, reflects the racial, gender, ethnic, and geographic diversity of the State;

(5) coordinate and accelerate cybersecurity research and innovation in the State; and

(6) support the efforts of the Department of Information Technology to improve the State government’s cybersecurity posture, including State agencies, local government units, and critical infrastructure.

[(d)] (C) The Program shall:

(1) conduct ongoing research by collaborating with the Cybersecurity Association [of Maryland], Inc., Cybersecurity Talent Advisory Board to collect and analyze

real-time industry data to identify cybersecurity workforce needs as described in the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Talent Pipeline Management Approach;

(2) use the results of the research described in item (1) of this subsection to increase the effectiveness of existing State cybersecurity workforce programs for employers in the State;

(3) facilitate partnerships for new training and education programs to address the workforce needs identified under item (1) of this subsection;

(4) develop a statewide strategic plan for cybersecurity workforce development, using the results of the research described in item (1) of this subsection and with input from the Cybersecurity Association [of Maryland], Inc., Cybersecurity Talent Advisory Board on or before December 1, 2023; [and]

(5) DEVELOP, PROMOTE, SUPPORT, AND INVEST IN TALENT IMPROVEMENT STRATEGIES, SUCH AS STRATEGIES THAT LEVERAGE THE U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TALENT PIPELINE MANAGEMENT APPROACH; AND

[(5)] (6) ensure that outcomes of the Program are inclusive and, to the maximum extent practicable, reflect the racial, gender, ethnic, and geographic diversity of the State.

(D) BEGINNING IN FISCAL YEAR 2026, THE PROGRAM, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE BOARD, SHALL AWARD COMPETITIVE GRANTS OR CONTRACTS ~~FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY OR OPERATIONAL TECHNOLOGY~~ TO ENHANCE CYBERSECURITY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING CYBERSECURITY FOR OPERATIONAL TECHNOLOGY.

11-1703.

[(e) (1)] (A) There is a Cyber Maryland Fund.

[(2)] (B) The purposes of the Fund are to:

[(i)] (1) achieve the purposes identified under [subsection (c) of this section] **§ 11-1702(B) OF THIS SUBTITLE**; and

[(ii)] (2) support innovative approaches to meeting cybersecurity workforce needs.

[(3)] (C) The [Corporation] **DEPARTMENT** shall administer the Fund.

[(4) (i)] (D) (1) The Fund is a special, nonlapsing fund that is not subject to § 7-302 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

[(ii)] (2) The State Treasurer shall hold the Fund separately, and the Comptroller shall account for the Fund.

[(5)] (E) The Fund consists of:

[(i)] (1) money appropriated in the State budget to the Fund; [and]

(2) MONEY TRANSFERRED TO THE FUND IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (M) OF THIS SECTION; AND

[(ii)] (3) any other money from any other source accepted for the benefit of the Fund.

[(6)] (F) The Fund may be used only for:

[(i)] (1) administrative expenses of the Program, including hiring staff in accordance with the State budget and hiring consultants and other professionals as necessary to implement, maintain, and administer the Program and the Fund; and

[(ii)] (2) providing grants to elementary and secondary schools, institutions of higher education, including community colleges, **EMPLOYERS, INCLUDING** for-profit corporations, [and] nonprofit organizations, **REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP SPONSORS, LOCAL WORKFORCE BOARDS, INDUSTRY ASSOCIATIONS, LABOR UNIONS, LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, LOCAL OR REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ENTITIES, AND OTHER RELEVANT PARTNER ENTITIES AT THE DEPARTMENT'S DISCRETION** to operate cybersecurity programs based on the strategic plan of the Program.

[(7)] (G) The **[Corporation] DEPARTMENT** shall adopt standards to award grants under this section.

[(8) (i)] (H) (1) The State Treasurer shall invest the money of the Fund in the same manner as other State money may be invested.

[(ii)] (2) Any interest earnings of the Fund shall be credited to the General Fund of the State.

[(9)] (I) Expenditures from the Fund may be made only in accordance with the State budget.

[(10)] (J) (1) For fiscal year **[2025 and each year thereafter] 2026**, the Governor[:

(i) shall] **MAY** include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of [\$99,000] **\$3,100,000** for the Fund to be used for [talent pipeline management; and

(ii) may include in the annual budget bill an additional appropriation of \$250,000 for the Fund] **THE AWARDDING OF GRANTS AND CONTRACTS UNDER § 11-1702(D) OF THIS SUBTITLE ALIGNED WITH THE STRATEGY OF AND APPROVED BY THE BOARD.**

(2) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, THE GOVERNOR ~~SHALL~~ MAY INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION SUFFICIENT TO RUN THE PROGRAM.

(3) THE PROGRAM SHALL SEEK ALTERNATE FUNDING SOURCES TO INCLUDE COST-SHARING OR COST-MATCHING AGREEMENTS FROM PARTNERS SOURCES OTHER THAN THE STATE, INCLUDING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, THE PRIVATE SECTOR, AND PHILANTHROPY, TO ~~DOUBLE~~ SUPPLEMENT THE MONEY APPROPRIATED TO THE FUND UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

[(11)] (K) Subject to the availability of funding, for fiscal year 2025 and each year thereafter, \$250,000 of the Fund shall be used for implementing the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Talent Pipeline Management Approach.

[(12)] (L) The Governor ~~shall~~ **MAY** include in the annual budget bill an appropriation in an amount sufficient for the Program, **INCLUDING TO HIRE SUFFICIENT STAFF TO CARRY OUT ITS DUTIES.**

~~(M) NOTWITHSTANDING § 7-302 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE AND ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW, THE UNSPENT BALANCE OF THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS AND FUNDS THAT WAS MADE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR SHALL BE TRANSFERRED TO THE FUND AT THE CLOSE OF THAT FISCAL YEAR:~~

- ~~(1) EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT RIGHT NOW PROGRAM;~~**
- ~~(2) CYBERSECURITY INVESTMENT TAX CREDIT;~~**
- ~~(3) BUY MARYLAND CYBERSECURITY TAX CREDIT;~~**
- ~~(4) CYBERSECURITY INVESTMENT FUND;~~**
- ~~(5) PATHWAYS IN TECHNOLOGY EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM;~~**
- ~~(6) CYBER PUBLIC SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP;~~**

- ~~(7) MARYLAND TECHNOLOGY INTERNSHIP PROGRAM;~~
- ~~(8) MARYLAND INSTITUTE FOR INNOVATIVE COMPUTING;~~
- ~~(9) ACCELERATING CYBER CAREERS PROGRAM;~~
- ~~(10) UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE COUNTY'S CENTER FOR CYBERSECURITY;~~
- ~~(11) BUILD OUR FUTURE GRANT PILOT PROGRAM; AND~~
- ~~(12) REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIPS IN CYBERSECURITY.~~

11-1704.

[(f) (1)] (A) There is a Cyber Maryland Board.

[(2)] (B) The Board consists of the following members:

[(i)] (1) the Senate and House of Delegates cochairs of the Joint Committee on Cybersecurity, Information Technology, and Biotechnology;

[(ii)] (2) the Secretary, or the Secretary's designee;

[(iii)] (3) the Secretary of [Labor] **COMMERCE**, or the Secretary's designee;

[(iv)] (4) the Maryland Secretary of Veterans and Military Families, or the Secretary's designee;

[(v)] (5) the Secretary of Information Technology, or the Secretary's designee;

(6) **THE SECRETARY OF HIGHER EDUCATION, OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;**

(7) **THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, OR THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESIGNEE;**

[(vi)] (8) the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Cybersecurity Association [of Maryland], Inc., or the Chair's designee;

[(vii)] **(9)** the Chair of the Maryland Workforce Association, or the Chair's designee;

(10) THE ADJUTANT GENERAL, OR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S DESIGNEE;

~~**(10)**~~ **(11) THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE MARYLAND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (TEDCO), OR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S DESIGNEE; AND**

[(viii)] ~~**(11)**~~ **(12)** the following members, appointed by the Governor:

[1.] **(I)** five members from the private sector with cybersecurity needs;

[2.] **(II)** one representative from a nonprofit organization with expertise in cybersecurity talent development;

[3.] **(III)** one representative from a community college;

[4.] **(IV)** one representative from a 4-year, public HBCU college; and

[5.] **(V)** one representative from a 4-year, public college[; and

(ix) the Chief Executive Officer, or the Chief Executive Officer's designee].

[(3) (i)] **(C) (1)** Subject to [subparagraph (ii)] **PARAGRAPH (2)** of this [paragraph] **SUBSECTION**, the members of the Board shall elect a chair from among the members of the Board.

[(ii)] **(2)** The chair may not be:

[1.] **(I)** a State employee; or

[2.] **(II)** the Chief Executive Officer **OF THE MARYLAND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (TEDCO).**

[(4)] **(D)** The Board shall:

[(i)] **(1)** provide input regarding the development of the statewide cybersecurity workforce development strategic plan required under [subsection (d)(4) of this section] **§ 11-1702(C)(4) OF THIS SUBTITLE;**

[(ii)] (2) assist the Program with stakeholder outreach and engagement;

[(iii)] (3) help the Program explore synergies where appropriate with cybersecurity workforce development efforts by regional and county workforce development entities;

[(iv)] (4) coordinate as necessary with the [Maryland] Department of [Labor] COMMERCE and the Department; and

[(v)] (5) provide other advice and support for the Program.

[(5)] (E) A member of the Board:

[(i)] (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Board; but

[(ii)] (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

[(6) The Governor may remove an appointed member of the Board for incompetence, misconduct, or failure to perform the duties of the position.]

(F) TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD SHALL REFLECT THE RACIAL, GENDER, AGE, AND GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY OF THE STATE.

(G) (1) ~~THE TERM OF AN APPOINTED MEMBER OF THE BOARD IS 4 YEARS.~~

(2) ~~THE TERMS OF THE APPOINTED MEMBERS ARE STAGGERED AS REQUIRED BY THE TERMS PROVIDED FOR APPOINTED MEMBERS OF THE BOARD ON OCTOBER 1, 2025.~~

(3) ~~AT THE END OF A TERM, AN APPOINTED MEMBER CONTINUES TO SERVE UNTIL A SUCCESSOR IS APPOINTED AND QUALIFIES.~~

(4) ~~A MEMBER WHO IS APPOINTED AFTER A TERM HAS BEGUN SERVES ONLY FOR THE REST OF THE TERM AND UNTIL A SUCCESSOR IS APPOINTED AND QUALIFIES~~ THE BOARD SHALL ADOPT BYLAWS THAT ESTABLISH STAGGERED TERMS FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD AND PROCEDURES GOVERNING VACANCIES IN MEMBERSHIP.

11-1705.

[(g)] (A) On or before December 1 each year, beginning in 2026, the Program, in conjunction with the [Corporation] **DEPARTMENT**, shall submit a report on the operation and performance of the Program to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

(B) **THE REPORT REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION SHALL INCLUDE KEY PERFORMANCE METRICS ESTABLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT THAT ARE ALIGNED WITH THE STATE STRATEGY AND GOALS FOR THE PROGRAM AND THE PROGRESS OF THE PROGRAM AGAINST THOSE METRICS.**

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) The Cyber Maryland Program, in conjunction with the Maryland Department of Labor and the Cyber Maryland Board, shall report on cyber workforce program activities determined relevant by the Program through collaboration with relevant departments and entities, including:

- (1) Employment Advancement Right Now Program;
- (2) Pathways in Technology Early College High School;
- (3) Cyber Public Service Scholarship;
- (4) Maryland Technology Internship Program;
- (5) Maryland Institute for Innovative Computing;
- (6) Accelerating Cyber Careers Program;
- (7) University of Maryland Baltimore County's Center for Cybersecurity;
- (8) Build Our Future Grant Pilot Program; and
- (9) Registered Apprenticeships in Cybersecurity.

(b) The report required under subsection (a) of this section shall capture the following data for each program:

- (1) program outputs, such as the number of program participants served;
- (2) program outcomes, such as the impact of or changes resulting from the program;
- (3) the performance targets for program outputs and outcomes; and

(4) if possible, the return on program investments.

(c) On or before December 1, 2026, the Cyber Maryland Program, in conjunction with the Maryland Department of Labor, shall submit the report to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That

~~(a)~~ It is the intent of the General Assembly that:

(1) the amounts awarded in grants and contracts under § 11–702(d) of the Labor and Employment Article, as enacted by Section 2 of this Act, not exceed the following:

~~(1)~~ may be allocated to provide \$1,000,000 for the establishment of cybersecurity clinics, including clinics related to operational technology, that:

(i) are focused on ensuring individuals attain hands-on cybersecurity skills to protect critical infrastructure sectors including emergency services, water, elementary and secondary schools, health care, energy, small businesses, and nonprofit entities;

(ii) provide cyber awareness and training to customers;

(iii) perform cybersecurity assessments for customers;

(iv) provide recommendations for necessary remediations;

(v) install free or reduced-cost cybersecurity tools as part of the grant or at a reduced rate to the end customer; or

(vi) provide additional cybersecurity tasks as appropriate; and

(2) the balance of the Cyber Maryland Fund be used to implement initiatives approved by the Cyber Maryland Board, including strategies to support transitioning veterans, existing worker training, education for kindergarten through 12th grade students at summer camps, the Maryland Statewide Computing Alignment to Locate your Education Scale (SCALE) portal, a marketing campaign for the Cyber Maryland Brand to attract talent to the State, and others outlined in the statewide strategic plan required under § 11–1702(c)(4) of the Labor and Employment Article.

~~(2) \$500,000 to support the development of a service-based learning program for cybersecurity;~~

~~(3) \$500,000 to support transitioning veterans within the State who have cyber skills, adjacent skills, or relevant clearances acquired during their service;~~

~~(4) \$99,000 for talent pipeline management aligned with the framework from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation.~~

~~(5) \$250,000 to support existing or develop new programs and incentives for existing worker training;~~

~~(6) \$250,000 to support cybersecurity education at the kindergarten, elementary school, and secondary school levels, including at summer camps;~~

~~(7) \$250,000 for a marketing campaign, in consultation with the Department of Commerce, to attract cyber talent and industry to the State; and~~

~~(8) \$250,000 for the Maryland Statewide Computing Alignment to Locate your Education (SCALE) portal.~~

~~(b) It is the intent of the General Assembly that the cybersecurity clinics under subsection (a)(1) of this section:~~

~~(1) include five pilot programs, with each pilot program focused on one of the following customer groups:~~

~~(i) emergency services;~~

~~(ii) water;~~

~~(iii) elementary and secondary schools;~~

~~(iv) health; and~~

~~(v) small businesses and nonprofit entities; and~~

~~(2) will:~~

~~(i) provide cyber awareness and training to customers;~~

~~(ii) perform cybersecurity assessments for customers;~~

~~(iii) provide recommendations for necessary remediations; and~~

~~(iv) install free or reduced cost cybersecurity tools as part of the grant or at a reduced rate to the end customer.~~

~~SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the terms of the initial appointed members of the Cyber Maryland Board shall expire as follows:~~

~~(1) three members in 2026;~~

- ~~(2) two members in 2027;~~
- ~~(3) two members in 2028; and~~
- ~~(4) two members in 2029.~~

SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect ~~October~~ July 1, 2025.

Approved by the Governor, April 22, 2025.