



## House Bill 996

### *Department of Information Technology – Cybersecurity Response Team*

MACo Position: **SUPPORT with  
AMENDMENTS**

Date: March 6, 2020

To: Health and Government Operations  
Committee

From: Drew Jabin

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 996 with **AMENDMENTS**. This bill would require the Department of Information Technology to consult with the Maryland Cybersecurity Council to establish a Cybersecurity Response Team that will in turn work with counties to ensure emergency response strategies are in place to protect vital technology infrastructure against cyber attacks.

While MACo appreciates the collaborative intent of this legislation, counties are concerned with the source of the funding for the cybersecurity response teams. **MACo understands and appreciates that sponsor amendments would remove the redirection of 9-1-1 Trust Fund resources, and fully address this county concern.**

Maryland residents demand and expect 9-1-1 emergency service to be reliable and efficient. Next generation technology is required to keep up with this increasingly complex public safety function – improving wireless caller location, accommodating incoming text/video, and managing crisis-driven call overflows. Maryland must accelerate its move toward Next Generation 9-1-1, deliver these essential services equitably across the state, and assure effective coordination with communications providers.

In 2019, the General Assembly passed landmark legislation to update state laws and the 9-1-1 financing system to provide the flexibility and resources needed for the deployment of a statewide Next Generation 9-1-1 system that our residents expect and deserve

MACo and county governments stand ready to work with state policy makers to develop cybersecurity strategies but resist a redirection of fully committed resources. Accordingly, MACo urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** report with **AMENDMENTS** on **HB 996**.