

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

Senate Bill 294

(Senator Feldman, *et al.*)

Education, Energy, and the Environment

Health and Government Operations

Maryland Cybersecurity Council - Alterations

This bill modifies the membership, organization, and duties of the Maryland Cybersecurity Council (MCC). The bill expresses the intent of the General Assembly that MCC review and adjust its subcommittee structure, if necessary, and implement appropriate bylaws of operation consistent with State law by December 1, 2025.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill’s requirements can be handled using existing budgeted resources. Reimbursements for additional MCC members are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The bill modifies MCC’s membership and organizational structure by:

- adding numerous additional members to MCC;
- modifying how many representatives with specified backgrounds must be included as members of MCC; and
- requiring, beginning October 1, 2025, and every two years thereafter, the council to elect a chair and vice chair from among the members of the council and specifying that one must be a State employee and one must be a non-State employee.

The bill expands MCC's duties and responsibilities by requiring it to:

- work with nonprofits in the execution of its duties;
- assess and address cybersecurity threats and associated risks from artificial intelligence (AI) and quantum computing in the execution of its duties;
- consider all critical infrastructure in the execution of its duties, instead of only critical infrastructure that is not covered by federal law or a specified executive order;
- address sensitive privacy interests of State residents related to cybersecurity and associated risks; and
- address emerging threats posed by AI, as specified.

Current Law: MCC must work with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), as well as other federal agencies, private-sector businesses, and private cybersecurity experts to address State cybersecurity issues. The council's responsibilities include (1) assisting specified infrastructure entities in complying with federal cybersecurity guidance; (2) examining inconsistencies between State and federal cybersecurity laws; (3) assisting private-sector cybersecurity businesses in adopting, adapting, and implementing the NIST cybersecurity framework of standards and practices; and (4) recommending legislative changes to address cybersecurity issues.

MCC is chaired by the Attorney General's designee, is staffed by the University of Maryland Global Campus, and consists of various representatives from State agencies, members of the General Assembly, and members appointed by the Attorney General. Additionally, the Attorney General must invite, as appropriate, representatives from specified federal agencies to serve on the council.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: HB 376 (Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee)
- Health and Government Operations.

Information Source(s): Department of Information Technology; Governor's Office; Maryland Department of Emergency Management; Office of the Attorney General; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 23, 2025
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