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Executive Director

DEPARTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES  
OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AUDITS  
MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Gregory A. Hook, CPA  
Legislative Auditor

April 29, 2024

Senator Guy J. Guzzone, Chair  
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee  
Miller Senate Office Building, 3 West Wing  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Delegate Benjamin S. Barnes, Chair  
House Appropriations Committee  
Lowe House Office Building, Room 121  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Senator Clarence K. Lam, M.D., Senate Chair  
Joint Audit and Evaluation Committee  
Miller Senate Office Building, Room 420  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Delegate Jared Solomon, House Chair  
Joint Audit and Evaluation Committee  
Lowe House Office Building, Room 312  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Gentlemen:

In accordance with a requirement contained in the April 2023 *Joint Chairmen's Report* (JCR), pages 52 and 53, the Office of Legislative Audits (OLA) has reviewed the findings and report by the State Chief Information Security Officer (SCISO) of actions taken by eight agencies to resolve certain repeat audit findings in calendar year 2022 OLA compliance audit

reports. The eight agencies identified in the JCR are the Baltimore City Community College, Maryland Department of Environment, Morgan State University, Maryland Department of Health, Maryland Department of Labor, Department of General Services, State Highway Administration of the Maryland Department of Transportation, and Department of Human Services.

The JCR required that, prior to the release of \$250,000 of the appropriation made for the purpose of Executive Direction for the Department of Budget and Management for fiscal year 2024, the eight aforementioned agencies must have met with the SCISO concerning their repeat cybersecurity findings. Furthermore, the meeting was to identify and document a path for resolution of any outstanding issues and to confirm that the agencies have taken corrective action with respect to their cybersecurity audit findings, including articulating any ongoing associated costs and a timeline for resolution if the corrective action is not complete. In addition, the JCR required the SCISO to submit a report to OLA by February 1, 2024 addressing corrective actions taken, a path and timeline for resolution of any outstanding issues, and any ongoing costs associated with corrective actions. The JCR language further provided that OLA submit a report by May 1, 2024 to the budget committees and the Joint Audit and Evaluation Committee listing each repeat audit finding, along with information that demonstrates the agencies' commitment to correct each repeat audit finding.

In accordance with the April 2023 JCR requirement, the SCISO provided a report, dated February 2024, summarizing its assessment of the actions taken by the eight agencies with respect to the repeat audit findings. The SCISO status report indicated that two agencies had taken corrective actions to address their respective repeat cybersecurity findings. The SCISO status report indicated that a third agency had taken corrective actions to address one of its two repeat cybersecurity findings and agreed to a course of action recommended by the SCISO to address the remaining repeat cybersecurity finding. The SCISO status report indicated that four agencies presented acceptable courses of action to address their respective repeat cybersecurity findings. The SCISO status report did not comment on the status of the repeat finding included in the prior report of an eighth agency since the SCISO did not consider the finding to be specific to cybersecurity controls or weaknesses<sup>1</sup>.

We reviewed the SCISO status report to assess the implementation status of the related recommendations. Our review did not constitute an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards. Based on our review of the conclusions summarized in the SCISO report, it is our opinion that seven of the agencies had either resolved or developed courses of action that demonstrated a commitment to correct their repeat

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<sup>1</sup> The term "cybersecurity" is defined in the State Finance and Procurement Article, Section 3.5-301(b), as processes or capabilities wherein systems, communications, and information are protected and defended against damage, unauthorized use or modification, and exploitation. Cybersecurity-related findings are designated by OLA using our professional judgment and a conservative interpretation of this definition.

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cybersecurity findings. Based on previous correspondence to OLA, we determined that the actions described by the eighth agency (and unaddressed in the SCISO report) were sufficient to address its repeat cybersecurity-related finding.

This public letter differs from the confidential letter previously provided to the addressees, as detailed information and exhibits necessary for the budget committees and the Joint Audit and Evaluation Committee to review and comment on the relevant information has been redacted. This redaction was undertaken in accordance with the State Government Article Section 2-1224(i), of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

We advised the eight agencies of the results of our review. We wish to acknowledge the cooperation extended by the SCISO during this review and the willingness of all agencies to address the cybersecurity audit issues and implement appropriate corrective actions.

We trust our response satisfactorily addresses the JCR requirement. Please contact me if you need additional information.

Sincerely,



Gregory A. Hook, CPA  
Legislative Auditor

cc: Joint Audit and Evaluation Committee Members and Staff  
Senator William C. Ferguson IV, President of the Senate  
Delegate Adrienne A. Jones, Speaker of the House of Delegates  
Governor Westley W. Moore  
Comptroller Brooke E. Lierman  
Treasurer Dereck E. Davis  
Attorney General Anthony G. Brown  
Secretary Helene T. Grady, Department of Budget and Management  
Secretary Katie Olson Savage, Department of Information Technology  
Gregory S. Rogers, State Chief Information Security Officer, Department  
of Information Technology  
Victoria L. Gruber, Executive Director, Department of Legislative Services