

HOUSE BILL 542

M3, E4

11r1902
CF SB 62

By: **Delegate C. Watson**

Introduced and read first time: January 15, 2021

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Emergency Management – Chief Resilience Officer – Appointment and Duties**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Director of the Maryland Emergency Management
4 Agency to appoint a Chief Resilience Officer; providing that the Chief Resilience
5 Officer serves at the pleasure of the Director; providing for the salary of the Chief
6 Resilience Officer and the categorization of the Chief Resilience Officer in the State
7 Personnel Management System; establishing the duties and responsibilities of the
8 Chief Resilience Officer; requiring the Chief Resilience Officer to prioritize certain
9 efforts and ensure the collaboration of certain State agencies and programs in
10 addressing certain priorities in certain years; requiring the Adaptation and
11 Resiliency Workgroup of the Maryland Commission on Climate Change to provide
12 certain support and assistance to the Chief Resilience Officer and to take certain
13 actions with respect to the Workgroup’s membership under certain circumstances;
14 requiring the Department of the Environment to provide certain assistance to the
15 Chief Resilience Officer; requiring the University of Maryland Center for
16 Environmental Science to provide certain assistance to the Chief Resilience Officer;
17 requiring the Chief Resilience Officer to make a certain annual report to the
18 Governor, the State Treasurer, and the General Assembly on or before a certain date;
19 and generally relating to the Chief Resilience Officer.

20 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
21 Article – Public Safety
22 Section 14–101
23 Annotated Code of Maryland
24 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

25 BY adding to
26 Article – Public Safety
27 Section 14–104.1
28 Annotated Code of Maryland

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(2018 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Public Safety

14–101.

(a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

(b) “Director” means the Director of MEMA.

(c) “Emergency” means the imminent threat or occurrence of severe or widespread loss of life, injury, or other health impacts, property damage or destruction, social or economic disruption, or environmental degradation from natural, technological, or human-made causes.

(d) (1) “Emergency management” means the planning, implementing, and conducting of risk reduction and consequence management activities across the mission areas of prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery to enhance preparedness, save lives, preserve public health and safety, protect public and private property, and minimize or repair injury and damage that results or may result from emergencies.

(2) “Emergency management” does not include the preparation for and carrying out of functions in an emergency for which military forces are primarily responsible.

(e) “Political subdivision” means a county or municipal corporation of the State.

(f) “Senior elected official” means:

(1) the mayor;

(2) the county executive;

(3) for a county that does not have a county executive, the president of the board of county commissioners or county council or other chief executive officer of the county; or

(4) for a municipal corporation that does not have a mayor, the burgess, chairperson, or president of the municipal governing body or other chief executive officer of the municipal corporation.

14–104.1.

1 **(A) THE DIRECTOR SHALL APPOINT A CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER.**

2 **(B) THE CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER SERVES AT THE PLEASURE OF THE**
3 **DIRECTOR.**

4 **(C) THE CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER IS IN THE EXECUTIVE SERVICE OF**
5 **THE STATE PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AND IS ENTITLED TO THE SALARY**
6 **PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.**

7 **(D) (1) THE CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR**
8 **COORDINATING STATE AND LOCAL EFFORTS TO BUILD RESILIENCE TO RISKS**
9 **IDENTIFIED IN THE MARYLAND HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN.**

10 **(2) DUTIES OF THE CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER SHALL INCLUDE:**

11 **(I) OVERSEEING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A STATE RESILIENCE**
12 **STRATEGY TO BUILD RESILIENCE TO RISKS IDENTIFIED IN THE MARYLAND HAZARD**
13 **MITIGATION PLAN;**

14 **(II) COORDINATING ACROSS STATE AND LOCAL AGENCIES TO**
15 **PREPARE AND IMPLEMENT RESILIENCE STRATEGIES;**

16 **(III) IDENTIFYING, SECURING, AND ASSISTING IN ACCESSING**
17 **FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL FUNDING STREAMS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**
18 **THAT CAN BE USED TO SUPPORT STATE AND LOCAL RESILIENCE EFFORTS; AND**

19 **(IV) WORKING WITH BUSINESS LEADERS FROM INDUSTRIES**
20 **VULNERABLE TO THE RISKS IDENTIFIED IN THE MARYLAND HAZARD MITIGATION**
21 **PLAN TO IDENTIFY BEST PRACTICES FOR PREPARING FOR AND RESPONDING TO**
22 **THOSE RISKS.**

23 **(3) (I) THIS PARAGRAPH APPLIES IN CALENDAR YEARS 2021**
24 **THROUGH 2025, INCLUSIVE, OR UNTIL THERE IS A SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE TO THE**
25 **RISK ASSESSMENT PORTION OF THE MARYLAND HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN.**

26 **(II) IN CARRYING OUT THE DUTIES OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE**
27 **CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER SHALL PRIORITIZE EFFORTS AND STRATEGIES AIMED**
28 **AT BUILDING RESILIENCE TO COASTAL HAZARDS AND FLOODING DUE TO CLIMATE**
29 **CHANGE.**

30 **(III) THE CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER SHALL ENSURE THE**
31 **COLLABORATION OF RELEVANT STATE AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS IN ADDRESSING**
32 **THE PRIORITIES DESCRIBED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH.**

1 **(E) THE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCY WORKGROUP OF THE MARYLAND**
2 **COMMISSION ON CLIMATE CHANGE SHALL:**

3 **(1) SUPPORT THE CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER WITH COORDINATING**
4 **RESILIENCE EFFORTS ACROSS STATE AGENCIES;**

5 **(2) ASSIST THE CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER TO PRODUCE AN**
6 **UPDATED ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE STRATEGY FOR THE STATE; AND**

7 **(3) REVIEW AND ALTER THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE WORKGROUP AT**
8 **THE REQUEST OF THE CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER.**

9 **(F) THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT SHALL ASSIST THE CHIEF**
10 **RESILIENCE OFFICER IN REVIEWING THE STATE'S FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAPS**
11 **AND DEVELOPING RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE NECESSITY OF UPDATING THE MAPS.**

12 **(G) THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL**
13 **SCIENCE SHALL ASSIST THE CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER IN:**

14 **(1) ESTABLISHING A RESILIENCE BASELINE FOR THE STATE AND**
15 **DEVELOPING A SET OF GOALS AND INDICATORS FOR THE PURPOSE OF MONITORING**
16 **EFFORTS TO INCREASE RESILIENCE; AND**

17 **(2) PRODUCING AN ECONOMIC ANALYSIS AND POLICY BENCHMARK**
18 **REPORT ON THE STATE'S RESILIENCE EFFORTS, INCLUDING:**

19 **(I) THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF ANY PROJECTIONS RELATED TO**
20 **THE OCCURRENCE OF EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS IN THE STATE;**

21 **(II) THE RESOURCES NECESSARY TO ADEQUATELY PREPARE**
22 **FOR AND REDUCE THE ADVERSE IMPACTS ASSOCIATED WITH EXTREME WEATHER**
23 **EVENTS AND OTHER NATURAL DISASTERS AND TO INCREASE RESILIENCE TO THE**
24 **FUTURE OCCURRENCE OF EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS AND NATURAL DISASTERS;**

25 **(III) POTENTIAL STATE, FEDERAL, AND PRIVATE FINANCIAL**
26 **RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR INCREASING RESILIENCE THROUGHOUT THE STATE,**
27 **INCLUDING BY EXAMINING HOW OTHER STATES FINANCE RESILIENCE EFFORTS;**
28 **AND**

29 **(IV) A COMPARISON OF MARYLAND'S POLICIES AND ECONOMIC**
30 **INVESTMENTS AIMED AT BUILDING RESILIENCE WITH THE POLICIES AND**
31 **INVESTMENTS OF OTHER VULNERABLE STATES, INCLUDING FLORIDA,**

1 MASSACHUSETTS, NEW YORK, NORTH CAROLINA, AND VIRGINIA.

2 (H) (1) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2023, AND EACH JANUARY 1
3 THEREAFTER, THE CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER SHALL REPORT TO THE
4 GOVERNOR, THE STATE TREASURER, AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE
5 STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE CURRENT
6 STATUS AND EFFICACY OF STATE AND LOCAL RESILIENCE EFFORTS.

7 (2) THE REPORT SHALL INCLUDE:

8 (I) A SUMMARY OF THE CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER'S
9 ACTIVITIES DURING THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING CALENDAR YEAR;

10 (II) RECOMMENDATIONS BASED ON THE INFORMATION
11 GATHERED UNDER SUBSECTIONS (F) AND (G) OF THIS SECTION; AND

12 (III) RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING WHETHER THE STATE
13 SHOULD CREATE A RESILIENCY PROGRAM IN THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
14 HOMELAND SECURITY AND, IF SO:

15 1. WHAT ACTIVITIES THE PROGRAM SHOULD
16 UNDERTAKE;

17 2. HOW THE PROGRAM SHOULD COORDINATE WITH
18 STATE AGENCIES AND OTHER ENTITIES ENGAGED IN DISASTER MITIGATION AND
19 RESILIENCY WORK; AND

20 3. HOW THE PROGRAM COULD BE FUNDED.

21 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
22 1, 2021.