

HOUSE BILL 879

E4
HB 1618/20 – HRU

11r2804
CF SB 69

By: **Delegate R. Watson**

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2021

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 26, 2021

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 ~~Maryland Emergency Management Agency~~ **Cybersecurity Coordination and**
3 **Operations Office Establishment – Maryland Cybersecurity Council Study and**
4 **Report**

5 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Cybersecurity Council to conduct a certain
6 study on cybersecurity coordination and operations in the State; requiring the
7 Council to submit a certain report to certain committees of the General Assembly on
8 or before a certain date; and generally relating to a report on cybersecurity
9 coordination and operations ~~establishing the Cybersecurity Coordination and~~
10 ~~Operations Office within the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA);~~
11 ~~providing for the purpose of the Office; requiring the Director of MEMA to appoint~~
12 ~~an Executive Director as head of the Office; requiring the Office to be provided with~~
13 ~~sufficient staff to perform the Office's functions; requiring the Office to establish~~
14 ~~regional assistance groups to deliver or coordinate support services to political~~
15 ~~subdivisions, agencies, or regions in accordance with certain requirements;~~
16 ~~authorizing the Office to hire or procure regional coordinators; requiring a certain~~
17 ~~report annually; defining certain terms; and generally relating to the establishment~~
18 ~~of the Cybersecurity Coordination and Operations Office within MEMA.~~

19 ~~BY adding to~~
20 ~~Article – Public Safety~~
21 ~~Section 14-104.1~~
22 ~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~
23 ~~(2018 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)~~

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



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

3 ~~Article — Public Safety~~

4 ~~14-104.1.~~

5 (A) (1) ~~IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS~~
6 ~~INDICATED.~~

7 (2) ~~“OFFICE” MEANS THE CYBERSECURITY COORDINATION AND~~
8 ~~OPERATIONS OFFICE ESTABLISHED WITHIN MEMA.~~

9 (3) ~~“REGION” MEANS A COLLECTION OF POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS.~~

10 (B) ~~THERE IS A CYBERSECURITY COORDINATION AND OPERATIONS~~
11 ~~OFFICE WITHIN MEMA.~~

12 (C) ~~THE PURPOSE OF THE OFFICE IS TO:~~

13 (1) ~~IMPROVE LOCAL, REGIONAL, AND STATEWIDE CYBERSECURITY~~
14 ~~READINESS AND RESPONSE;~~

15 (2) ~~ASSIST POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS, SCHOOL BOARDS, AND~~
16 ~~AGENCIES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF CYBERSECURITY DISRUPTION PLANS;~~

17 (3) ~~IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION~~
18 ~~TECHNOLOGY, COORDINATE WITH POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS, LOCAL AGENCIES,~~
19 ~~AND STATE AGENCIES ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CYBERSECURITY BEST~~
20 ~~PRACTICES;~~

21 (4) ~~COORDINATE WITH POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS AND AGENCIES ON~~
22 ~~THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY’S~~
23 ~~STATEWIDE MASTER PLAN DEVELOPED IN ACCORDANCE WITH TITLE 3A, SUBTITLE~~
24 ~~3 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE; AND~~

25 (5) ~~CONSULT WITH THE STATE CHIEF INFORMATION SECURITY~~
26 ~~OFFICER AND THE SECRETARY OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TO CONNECT~~
27 ~~POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS AND AGENCIES TO THE APPROPRIATE RESOURCES FOR~~
28 ~~ANY OTHER PURPOSE RELATED TO CYBERSECURITY READINESS AND RESPONSE.~~

29 (D) (1) ~~THE HEAD OF THE OFFICE IS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WHO~~
30 ~~SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE DIRECTOR.~~

1 ~~(2) THE OFFICE SHALL BE PROVIDED WITH SUFFICIENT STAFF TO~~
2 ~~PERFORM THE FUNCTIONS OF THE OFFICE.~~

3 ~~(E) (1) THE OFFICE SHALL ESTABLISH REGIONAL ASSISTANCE GROUPS~~
4 ~~TO DELIVER OR COORDINATE SUPPORT SERVICES TO POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS,~~
5 ~~AGENCIES, OR REGIONS.~~

6 ~~(2) THE OFFICE MAY HIRE OR PROCURE REGIONAL COORDINATORS~~
7 ~~TO DELIVER OR COORDINATE THE SERVICES UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS~~
8 ~~SUBSECTION.~~

9 ~~(3) THE OFFICE SHALL PROVIDE OR COORDINATE SUPPORT~~
10 ~~SERVICES UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION THAT INCLUDE:~~

11 ~~(I) CONNECTING MULTIPLE POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS AND~~
12 ~~AGENCIES WITH EACH OTHER TO SHARE BEST PRACTICES OR OTHER INFORMATION~~
13 ~~TO INCREASE READINESS OR RESPONSE EFFECTIVENESS;~~

14 ~~(II) PROVIDING TECHNICAL SERVICES FOR THE~~
15 ~~IMPLEMENTATION OF CYBERSECURITY BEST PRACTICES IN ACCORDANCE WITH~~
16 ~~SUBSECTION (C)(3) OF THIS SECTION;~~

17 ~~(III) COMPLETING CYBERSECURITY RISK ASSESSMENTS;~~

18 ~~(IV) DEVELOPING CYBERSCORECARDS AND REPORTS ON~~
19 ~~REGIONAL READINESS;~~

20 ~~(V) CREATING AND UPDATING CYBERSECURITY DISRUPTION~~
21 ~~PLANS IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (C)(2) OF THIS SECTION; AND~~

22 ~~(VI) CONDUCTING REGIONAL EXERCISES IN COORDINATION~~
23 ~~WITH THE NATIONAL GUARD, MEMA, THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION~~
24 ~~TECHNOLOGY, LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGERS, AND OTHER STATE AND LOCAL~~
25 ~~ENTITIES.~~

26 ~~(F) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1 EACH YEAR, THE OFFICE SHALL REPORT~~
27 ~~TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE~~
28 ~~GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE~~
29 ~~OFFICE.~~

30 (a) The Maryland Cybersecurity Council shall:

31 (1) study:

1 (i) the State's existing cybersecurity programs and coordination
2 policies and efforts, including the responsibilities of the Maryland Emergency Management
3 Agency and Department of Information Technology, as well as the coordination of
4 responsibilities between these units;

5 (ii) cybersecurity coordination and operations programs in other
6 states;

7 (iii) best practices and recommendations of models for cybersecurity
8 coordination and operations by a state;

9 (iv) the traits of a government agency or department that is well
10 suited to manage cybersecurity coordination and operations for a state;

11 (v) what State agency or department best matches the traits
12 identified in item (iv) of this item or whether a new State agency or department should be
13 created to manage cybersecurity coordination and operations for the State;

14 (vi) the needs for cybersecurity coordination and operations by State,
15 local, and nongovernmental entities in the State; and

16 (vii) issues regarding the constitutional authority of the General
17 Assembly and the Executive Branch to enact and maintain an effective cybersecurity policy
18 for the State; and

19 (2) develop a comprehensive cybersecurity coordination and response
20 structure and plan for the State based on the findings from studying the items in paragraph
21 (1) of this subsection.

22 (b) On or before December 1, 2021, the Council shall report its findings and
23 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State
24 Government Article, the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee,
25 the House Health and Government Operations Committee, and the Joint Committee on
26 Cybersecurity, Information Technology, and Biotechnology.

27 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
28 ~~October~~ July 1, 2021. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 1 month and, at
29 the end of July 31, 2022, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly,
30 shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.