

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

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Emergency Management Agency – Cybersecurity Coordination and**
3 **Operations Office – Establishment**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Cybersecurity Coordination and Operations Office
5 within the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA); providing for the
6 purpose of the Office; requiring the Director of MEMA to appoint an Executive
7 Director as head of the Office; requiring the Office to be provided with sufficient staff
8 to perform the Office’s functions; requiring the Office to establish regional assistance
9 groups to deliver or coordinate support services to political subdivisions, agencies, or
10 regions in accordance with certain requirements; authorizing the Office to hire or
11 procure regional coordinators; requiring a certain report annually; defining certain
12 terms; and generally relating to the establishment of the Cybersecurity Coordination
13 and Operations Office within MEMA.

14 BY adding to
15 Article – Public Safety
16 Section 14–104.1
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

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

21 **Article – Public Safety**

22 **14–104.1.**

23 **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**
24 **INDICATED.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(2) "OFFICE" MEANS THE CYBERSECURITY COORDINATION AND**
2 **OPERATIONS OFFICE ESTABLISHED WITHIN MEMA.**

3 **(3) "REGION" MEANS A COLLECTION OF POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS.**

4 **(B) THERE IS A CYBERSECURITY COORDINATION AND OPERATIONS**
5 **OFFICE WITHIN MEMA.**

6 **(C) THE PURPOSE OF THE OFFICE IS TO:**

7 **(1) IMPROVE LOCAL, REGIONAL, AND STATEWIDE CYBERSECURITY**
8 **READINESS AND RESPONSE;**

9 **(2) ASSIST POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS, SCHOOL BOARDS, AND**
10 **AGENCIES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF CYBERSECURITY DISRUPTION PLANS;**

11 **(3) IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION**
12 **TECHNOLOGY, COORDINATE WITH POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS, LOCAL AGENCIES,**
13 **AND STATE AGENCIES ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CYBERSECURITY BEST**
14 **PRACTICES;**

15 **(4) COORDINATE WITH POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS AND AGENCIES ON**
16 **THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY'S**
17 **STATEWIDE MASTER PLAN DEVELOPED IN ACCORDANCE WITH TITLE 3A, SUBTITLE**
18 **3 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE; AND**

19 **(5) CONSULT WITH THE STATE CHIEF INFORMATION SECURITY**
20 **OFFICER AND THE SECRETARY OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TO CONNECT**
21 **POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS AND AGENCIES TO THE APPROPRIATE RESOURCES FOR**
22 **ANY OTHER PURPOSE RELATED TO CYBERSECURITY READINESS AND RESPONSE.**

23 **(D) (1) THE HEAD OF THE OFFICE IS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WHO**
24 **SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE DIRECTOR.**

25 **(2) THE OFFICE SHALL BE PROVIDED WITH SUFFICIENT STAFF TO**
26 **PERFORM THE FUNCTIONS OF THE OFFICE.**

27 **(E) (1) THE OFFICE SHALL ESTABLISH REGIONAL ASSISTANCE GROUPS**
28 **TO DELIVER OR COORDINATE SUPPORT SERVICES TO POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS,**
29 **AGENCIES, OR REGIONS.**

30 **(2) THE OFFICE MAY HIRE OR PROCURE REGIONAL COORDINATORS**
31 **TO DELIVER OR COORDINATE THE SERVICES UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS**

1 SUBSECTION.

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

4 (I) CONNECTING MULTIPLE POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS AND
5 AGENCIES WITH EACH OTHER TO SHARE BEST PRACTICES OR OTHER INFORMATION
6 TO INCREASE READINESS OR RESPONSE EFFECTIVENESS;

7 (II) PROVIDING TECHNICAL SERVICES FOR THE
8 IMPLEMENTATION OF CYBERSECURITY BEST PRACTICES IN ACCORDANCE WITH
9 SUBSECTION (C)(3) OF THIS SECTION;

10 (III) COMPLETING CYBERSECURITY RISK ASSESSMENTS;

11 (IV) DEVELOPING CYBERSCORECARDS AND REPORTS ON
12 REGIONAL READINESS;

13 (V) CREATING AND UPDATING CYBERSECURITY DISRUPTION
14 PLANS IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (C)(2) OF THIS SECTION; AND

15 (VI) CONDUCTING REGIONAL EXERCISES IN COORDINATION
16 WITH THE NATIONAL GUARD, MEMA, THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION
17 TECHNOLOGY, LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGERS, AND OTHER STATE AND LOCAL
18 ENTITIES.

19 (F) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1 EACH YEAR, THE OFFICE SHALL REPORT
20 TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE
21 GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
22 OFFICE.

23 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
24 October 1, 2021.