

# HOUSE BILL 1618

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CF SB 1036

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By: **Delegate M. Jackson**

Introduced and read first time: February 19, 2020

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

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## 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; altering a certain definition; making technical changes; and generally relating  
13 to the establishment of the Cybersecurity Coordination and Operations Office within  
14 MEMA.

15 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
16 Article – Public Safety  
17 Section 14–101(a)  
18 Annotated Code of Maryland  
19 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

20 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
21 Article – Public Safety  
22 Section 14–101(c)  
23 Annotated Code of Maryland  
24 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

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

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(2018 Replacement Volume and 2019 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 subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

(c) “Emergency” means the threat or occurrence of:

(1) a hurricane, A tornado, A storm, A flood, high water, wind–driven water,  
A tidal wave, AN earthquake, A landslide, A mudslide, A snowstorm, A drought, A fire, AN  
explosion, and any other disaster in any part of the State that requires State assistance to  
supplement local efforts in order to save lives and protect public health and safety; or

(2) an enemy attack, AN act of terrorism, A CYBERSECURITY ATTACK, or  
A public health catastrophe.

**14–104.1.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 PRACTICES;

2 (4) COORDINATE WITH POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS AND AGENCIES ON  
3 THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY'S  
4 STATEWIDE MASTER PLAN DEVELOPED IN ACCORDANCE WITH TITLE 3A, SUBTITLE  
5 3 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE; AND

6 (5) CONSULT WITH THE STATE CHIEF INFORMATION SECURITY  
7 OFFICER AND THE SECRETARY OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TO CONNECT  
8 POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS AND AGENCIES TO THE APPROPRIATE RESOURCES FOR  
9 ANY OTHER PURPOSE RELATED TO CYBERSECURITY READINESS AND RESPONSE.

10 (D) (1) THE HEAD OF THE OFFICE IS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WHO  
11 SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE DIRECTOR.

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

14 (E) (1) THE OFFICE SHALL ESTABLISH REGIONAL ASSISTANCE GROUPS  
15 TO DELIVER OR COORDINATE SUPPORT SERVICES TO POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS,  
16 AGENCIES, OR REGIONS.

17 (2) THE OFFICE MAY HIRE OR PROCURE REGIONAL COORDINATORS  
18 TO DELIVER OR COORDINATE THE SERVICES UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS  
19 SUBSECTION.

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

22 (I) CONNECTING MULTIPLE POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS AND  
23 AGENCIES WITH EACH OTHER TO SHARE BEST PRACTICES OR OTHER INFORMATION  
24 TO INCREASE READINESS OR RESPONSE EFFECTIVENESS;

25 (II) PROVIDING TECHNICAL SERVICES FOR THE  
26 IMPLEMENTATION OF CYBERSECURITY BEST PRACTICES IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
27 SUBSECTION (C)(3) OF THIS SECTION;

28 (III) COMPLETING CYBERSECURITY RISK ASSESSMENTS;

29 (IV) DEVELOPING CYBERSCORECARDS AND REPORTS ON  
30 REGIONAL READINESS;

31 (V) CREATING AND UPDATING CYBER DISRUPTION PLANS IN

1 ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (C)(2) OF THIS SECTION; AND

2 (VI) CONDUCTING REGIONAL EXERCISES IN COORDINATION  
3 WITH THE NATIONAL GUARD, MEMA, THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION  
4 TECHNOLOGY, LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGERS, AND OTHER STATE AND LOCAL  
5 ENTITIES.

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

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
11 October 1, 2020.