



# Maryland

## Energy Administration

Larry Hogan, Governor  
Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor  
Mary Beth Tung, Director

**TO:** Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee  
**FROM:** Mary Beth Tung – Director, MEA  
**SUBJECT:** SB0081 – State Government-Emergency Management-Continuity Planning  
**DATE:** January 15, 2020  
**CONTENTS:** Written Testimony in Support of

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### **MEA Position: FAVORABLE**

#### **Explanation**

Senate Bill 81 will require principal departments of the Executive Branch to develop, annually update, and submit to the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) a continuity of operations plan (COOP). Each COOP will include information regarding: delineation of essential functions, delegation of authority, safekeeping of and access to essential records, continuity locations, communications, human resources planning, devolution of essential functions, reconstitution, and program validation through testing, training, and exercises. MEMA will develop guidelines and serve as the coordinating agency in assisting each principal department.

#### **Justification**

MEA supports MEMA in developing guidelines for agencies to draft COOPs and maintain updated versions in the future. Ensuring State agencies have a detailed COOP will assist in the mitigation, response, and restoration efforts needed in an emergency event such as Superstorm Sandy (2012). COOPs can be complex and labor intensive documents, but they have a critical role in both agency level and state level emergency responses. While MEA will not fall under the requirements of the proposed legislation, it is our intention to provide MEMA with a new COOP this year. This process was initiated months ago, and it speaks to MEA's understanding of the importance of this particular brand of planning. MEA works closely with MEMA as its energy and fuels representative, and plans to utilize MEMA expertise while developing and maintaining our COOP plan.

For these reasons, MEA requests you give Senate Bill 81 a favorable report.