



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

TO: Members, Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
FROM: Mary Beth Tung – Director, MEA
SUBJECT: SB0069 – Maryland Emergency Management Agency - Cybersecurity Coordination and Operations Office - Establishment
DATE: February 2, 2021

MEA POSITION: Letter of Information

The purpose of the proposed legislation is to establish the Cybersecurity Coordination and Operations Office within the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA). The bill directs this new office to deliver and coordinate support services to include connecting multiple political subdivisions and agencies to share best practices to improve readiness, response, and implementation of cybersecurity best practices.

MEMA was an invaluable partner in the application leading to MEA and the State of Maryland being competitively selected by The National Governors Association to participate and evaluate lessons learned from GridEx V, a national-level electric grid cybersecurity exercise conducted by the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC). This process was initiated in 2019, and it speaks to MEA's understanding of the importance of this particular brand of planning.

The Cybersecurity Coordination and Operations Office could be a valuable tool in the continued efforts to defend the State from cybersecurity threats especially as it related to the energy grid. MEA works closely with MEMA as "State Coordinating Function 12" (Energy and Fuels representative) and plans, with or without this legislation, to utilize MEMA expertise for developing and maintaining its own planning and response procedures for cybersecurity events.