



Maryland Municipal League

The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns

TESTIMONY

March 10, 2021

Committee: House Health and Government Operations

Bill: HB 879 - Maryland Emergency Management Agency - Cybersecurity Coordination and Operations Office - Establishment

Position: Support

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League supports HB 879 which creates a new Cybersecurity Coordination and Operations Office within the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA). The Office will focus on the important task of improving readiness and response to cybersecurity threats.

By establishing a State framework of technical assistance and resource sharing, this bill recognizes that local governments often have different needs from one another as it pertains to cybersecurity and that a one-size-fits-all approach is not appropriate. Municipalities' populations, budgets, and services vary dramatically and so does the level of cybersecurity sophistication needed to safeguard residents' personal information, municipal employee records, and other sensitive data. This bill allows the MEMA office to act as a resource for local governments to use it as they see fit.

From the municipal government perspective, the office provides specific resources:

1. Guidance in the development of cybersecurity disruption plans;
2. Technical assistance to implement cybersecurity best practices; and
3. Regional groups to deliver support services.

The bill addresses the issue of cybersecurity from a resource and information sharing perspective, allowing local governments to continue to craft a cybersecurity strategy that fits their needs. For these reasons we therefore respectfully request that the committee provide a favorable report on HB 879.

1212 West Street, Annapolis, Maryland 21401

410-268-5514 | 800-492-7121 | FAX: 410-268-7004 | www.md-municipal.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Scott A. Hancock
Angelica Bailey
Bill Jorch
Justin Fiore

Executive Director
Director, Government Relations
Director, Research and Policy Analysis
Manager, Government Relations