

FAVORABLE - SB 871
Department of the Environment - Community Water and Sewerage Systems - Cybersecurity
Planning and Assessments
Environment and Transportation Committee
Hearing Date: 26 March 2025

The Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM) writes today in support of **SB 871 Department of the Environment - Community Water and Sewerage Systems - Cybersecurity Planning and Assessments**.

SB 871 will require the Department of Emergency Management to provide guidance for planning and risk communication to local emergency management organizations for incidents impacting community water and sewerage systems.

Local governments have the primary authority for responding to emergencies in their communities, including impacts to community water systems and issuing public information and warnings. Private entities are responsible for conducting their own planning, training, and exercises, and both local and State governments often participate in these efforts under a whole community approach to preparedness.

MDEM appreciates Senator Hester's willingness to work closely with the Department and the MACo Emergency Management Affiliate on the amendments for this bill. The amendments made by the Senate reflect the current emergency management system in Maryland.

In conclusion, the Maryland Department of Emergency Management respectfully requests a favorable report on **SB 871**. If you have any questions, please contact Anna Sierra, MDEM legislative liaison: anna.sierra1@maryland.gov.