

## Chapter 546

## (House Bill 256)

AN ACT concerning

**Waterway Incident Notification System (WINS) ~~Workgroup~~ – Study**

FOR the purpose of ~~establishing the Waterway Incident Notification System (WINS) Workgroup~~ requiring the Maryland Department of Emergency Management to study issues and factors regarding the feasibility of establishing a Waterway Incident Notification System (WINS) to notify members of the public of certain waterway emergencies; and generally relating to a study on the Waterway Incident Notification System (WINS) ~~Workgroup~~.

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
That:

- ~~(a) There is a Waterway Incident Notification System (WINS) Workgroup.~~
- ~~(b) The Workgroup consists of the following members:~~
  - ~~(1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of the Senate;~~
  - ~~(2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House;~~
  - ~~(3) the Secretary of Emergency Management, or the Secretary's designee;~~
  - ~~(4) the Chair of the Maryland 9-1-1 Board, or the Chair's designee;~~
  - ~~(5) the Superintendent of the Natural Resources Police, or the Superintendent's designee;~~
  - ~~(6) the Secretary of Information Technology, or the Secretary's designee;~~
  - ~~(7) the Secretary of the Environment, or the Secretary's designee; and~~
  - ~~(8) the following representatives:~~
    - ~~(i) one representative from the Dorchester County Emergency Management Division, appointed by the Director of the Dorchester County Department of Emergency Services;~~

~~(ii) one representative from the Anne Arundel County Office of Emergency Management, appointed by the Director of the Anne Arundel County Office of Emergency Management; and~~

~~(iii) one representative from the St. Mary's County Emergency Management Division, appointed by the Director of the St. Mary's County Department of Emergency Services.~~

~~(e) The Secretary of Emergency Management, or the Secretary's designee, may appoint additional members to the Workgroup.~~

~~(d) The Secretary of Emergency Management, or the Secretary's designee, shall designate the chair of the Workgroup.~~

~~(e) The Maryland Department of Emergency Management shall provide staff for the Workgroup.~~

~~(f) A member of the Workgroup:~~

~~(1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Workgroup; but~~

~~(2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.~~

(a) In this section, "Department" means the Maryland Department of Emergency Management.

~~(g) (b) The Workgroup Department, in consultation with other interested stakeholders, shall study and make recommendations regarding:~~

(1) the feasibility of establishing a Waterway Incident Notification System (WINS) to notify members of the public, including recreational boaters and commercial watermen, of active waterway emergencies involving a person at risk of death or serious bodily harm, emergency marine events, or marine hazards; and

(2) potential partnerships among the State, the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Navy, and nearby states to improve notifications to members of the public, including recreational boaters and commercial watermen, of waterway emergencies involving a person at risk of death or serious bodily harm, emergency marine events, or marine hazards.

~~(h) (c) (1) On or before December 31, 2024, the Workgroup Department shall submit an interim report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.~~

(2) On or before ~~September 30~~ December 1, 2025, the ~~Workgroup~~ Department shall submit a final report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2024. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and 1 month and, at the end of June 30, 2026, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

**Approved by the Governor, May 9, 2024.**