

Department of Legislative Services

Maryland General Assembly

2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Revised

Senate Bill 242

(The President) (Administration)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Commerce and Government Matters

Maryland Security Council

This emergency Administration bill creates the Maryland Security Council to assist the Governor in ensuring that the State maintains an adequate and coordinated strategy for emergency situations.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill's requirements could be handled with existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: A small business impact statement was not provided by the Administration in time for inclusion in this fiscal note. A revised fiscal note will be issued when the Administration's assessment becomes available.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The bill creates a 15-member Maryland Security Council within the Executive Department with the following membership:

- a representative of the Governor's office;
- the Secretary of the State Police;
- the Adjutant General of Maryland;
- the Secretary of Transportation;
- the Secretary of the Environment;

- the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene;
- the Secretary of General Services;
- the Executive Director of the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services; and
- seven individuals appointed by the Governor with expertise and experience in emergency prevention, preparedness, and response including representatives of the Maryland State Firemen's Association, county, municipal, and federal governments, the business community, and the general public.

The members of the council are not compensated, but receive reimbursement for travel expenses. Members serve a term of three years, and the Governor may remove a member for neglect of duty, incompetence, or misconduct. The Governor designates a chairman from among the members who serves at the pleasure of the Governor. The terms of the public members are staggered such that two terms expire in 2003, two terms expire in 2004, and three terms expire in 2005.

The council may meet at times and places it determines. The council will:

- work with other governmental and private entities in developing appropriate and necessary emergency management plans;
- periodically review and assess the adequacy of State agency emergency management plans and as requested those of local governments and private entities;
- recommend changes and coordinate revisions to any emergency management plan submitted to the council; and
- ensure, to the extent possible, that the appropriate and necessary information about the State's emergency management strategy is disseminated and exchanged among the appropriate entities.

The council may not exercise operational control over the State's emergency management response, except as directed by the Governor. The council's role is advisory except for the requirement that personnel in any governmental unit is to cooperate with the council in performing its functions and with regard to any reasonable request the council makes for information related to its purpose.

By December 1 of each year, beginning in 2002, the council is to submit a report to the Governor and the General Assembly concerning its activities and recommendations.

Current Law: None applicable.

Background: In an effort to prepare a legislative response to terrorism and related topics, the Governor, Speaker of the House, and President of the Senate appointed a joint task force to study the State's laws in this area and make recommendations for changes. The task force consists of three senators, three delegates, and four representatives from the Executive Branch. This is one of a package of bills recommended by the task force. Moreover, the Governor has listed homeland defense, including defenses against bio-terrorism, as one of his budget priorities for fiscal 2003.

Within the Military Department, there is a Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) and an Emergency Management Advisory Council.

The Emergency Management Advisory Council is composed of members the Governor deems appropriate and adequate. Membership is to include fair reasonable representation of local governments, representation for organizations representing volunteer fire fighters and rescue squads, and representation from the manufacturing, utilities, and communications industries. The council currently has 39 members including a chair, two vice-chairs and members representing a number of State agencies, and representatives of utilities, fire departments, firemen, and the Red Cross. All of the State agencies represented on the Maryland Security Council are currently represented on the Emergency Management Advisory Council.

The council is to advise the Governor on all matters related to State emergency management. The members of the council are not paid, but are reimbursed for reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in the course of their duties. In recent years, the council has met quarterly.

The Emergency Management Advisory Council also serves as the Maryland Emergency Response Commission.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 305 (The Speaker) (Administration) – Commerce and Government Matters.

Information Source(s): Governor's Office, Military Department, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 12, 2002
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