

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 882

(Senator Harris)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Health and Government Operations

State Government - Maryland Security Council - Abolition

This bill provides that the Maryland Emergency Management Advisory Council (MEMAC) must annually report to the Governor and the General Assembly on the council's activities and recommendations by December 1 of each year. The bill also provides for the abolition of the Maryland Security Council (MSC).

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Minimal decrease in State expenditures through the elimination of per diem payments to MSC members. Revenues would not be affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: MEMAC is made up of the Governor's appointed members representing volunteer fire and rescue companies; the manufacturing, utilities, and communications industries; and local governments to advise the Governor on all matters that relate to emergency management.

MSC is a similar body, made up of a representative from the Governor's office; the Secretaries of State Police, Transportation, Environment, Health and Mental Hygiene, General Services; the Adjutant General of Maryland; the Executive Director of the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems; and other appointees from the fire and rescue community, local governments, the federal government, the general

public, and the business community. MSC is designed to assist the Governor in ensuring that the State maintains an adequate and coordinated strategy for preventing, detecting, preparing for, responding to, and recovering from an emergency in the State or in a portion of the State. MSC must work with other agencies and governments to develop emergency response plans, review and assess existing emergency plans, recommend changes to the existing plans, and disseminate information regarding emergency response plans. MSC is advisory only, *i.e.*, it exercises no operational control over the State's emergency response system. MSC must report annually to the Governor and the General Assembly concerning its activities and recommendations.

Background: The Department of Legislative Services recommended that MSC be abolished in the *Fiscal 2006 Budget Overview for the Office of Homeland Security*. The report found the existence of MSC, MEMAC, and the Maryland Terrorism Forum to be duplicative and counterproductive. The analysis noted that the redundant membership of key members of the boards of MSC, MEMAC, and the Maryland Terrorism Forum may create constraints on management time.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): State Prosecutor's Office, Governor's Office, Department of State Police, Maryland Emergency Management Agency, Baltimore City, Office of the Attorney General, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 11, 2005
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