

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2009 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1474

(Chair, Health and Government Operations
Committee)(By Request - Departmental - Military)

Health and Government Operations

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Maryland Emergency Management Agency - Director

This departmental bill requires the Governor to appoint the Director of the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA). Currently, that appointment is made by the Adjutant General of the Maryland Military Department with the approval of the Governor. The bill also requires the Director of MEMA to be directly responsible to the Governor for carrying out the State emergency management program, to develop mutual aid agreements without the approval of the Adjutant General, and to employ personnel in a manner that is not subject to the authority of the Adjutant General.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2009.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill's reorganization of reporting responsibilities will not affect State finances and may create some operational efficiencies.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: The Department of the Military has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

Analysis

Current Law: The Adjutant General of the Military Department appoints the Director of MEMA, with the approval of the Governor. The Director of MEMA serves at the pleasure of the Adjutant General and is responsible to both the Governor and the Adjutant General for carrying out the State emergency management program. The director must develop mutual aid agreements with the approval of the Adjutant General and employ personnel in a manner that is subject to the authority of the Adjutant General.

Background: MEMA, which is part of the Maryland Military Department, is responsible for coordinating the State response in any major emergency or disaster. This includes supporting local governments as needed or requested, and coordinating assistance with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and other federal partners. MEMA manages many of the federal grants that fund a broad range of initiatives leading to enhanced protection from and responses to the full range of natural and man-made disasters which could threaten the State's citizens.

An evaluation of MEMA by an independent contractor recommended a phased-in organizational realignment of agencies with emergency management responsibilities. During declared emergencies, the Director of MEMA already reports directly to the Governor. This bill creates a direct line of authority between the Governor and the director at all times.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Governor's Office, Maryland Emergency Management Agency, Military Department, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 23, 2009
ncs/hlb

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ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES

TITLE OF BILL: Maryland Emergency Management Agency - Director

BILL NUMBER: HB 1474

PREPARED BY: Military

PART A. ECONOMIC IMPACT RATING

This agency estimates that the proposed bill:

WILL HAVE MINIMAL OR NO ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND
SMALL BUSINESS

OR

WILL HAVE MEANINGFUL ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND
SMALL BUSINESSES

PART B. ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

The proposed legislation will have no impact on small business in Maryland.