HOUSE BILL 898

By: Delegate Rosenberg
Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2022
Assigned to: Appropriations

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Maryland Department of Emergency Management – Office of Domestic Terrorism Response

FOR the purpose of establishing the Office of Domestic Terrorism Response within the Maryland Department of Emergency Management for the purpose of developing strategies and resources to prepare for, prevent, and recover from domestic terrorism activities; setting forth the duties of the Office; and generally relating to emergency management and the Office of Domestic Terrorism Response.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Public Safety
Section 14–101(a) and (b)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article – Public Safety
Section 14–104.1
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Public Safety

14–101.

(a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

(b) “Department” means the Maryland Department of Emergency Management.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.
(A) There is an Office of Domestic Terrorism Response in the Department.

(B) The purpose of the Office is to develop strategies and resources to prepare for, prevent, and recover from domestic terrorism activities.

(C) The Office shall:

(1) Coordinate with federal, state, and local agencies in developing and implementing plans related to domestic terrorism prevention and response, including cybersecurity attacks;

(2) Consult with the academic community to identify trends and develop best practices for the prevention of domestic terrorism;

(3) Explore federal grant funding opportunities;

(4) Engage with public health professionals to discover and implement early intervention strategies in persons becoming radicalized or at risk of committing an act of terrorism;

(5) Coordinate with federal law enforcement to explore methods to encourage and facilitate early reporting of emerging terrorism threats; and

(6) Research strategies employed by other states to prevent and respond to domestic terrorism threats.

(D) On or before December 1 each year, the Department shall report to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly on the activities of the Office.

SECTION 2. And be it further enacted, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2022.