

HOUSE BILL 1239

E4

6lr2743
CF SB 825

By: **Delegates Kaiser, Kaufman, Qi, Simmons, and Watson**

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2026

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 7, 2026

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Safety – Critical Infrastructure Protection**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Critical Infrastructure Protection Branch in the
4 Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center; requiring the Department of
5 Emergency Management, in consultation with the Center, to take certain action in
6 response to an attack on the State’s critical infrastructure; requiring the Department
7 of Information Technology to allow the owner or operator of critical infrastructure to
8 become a member of the Maryland Information Sharing and Analysis Center and
9 provide certain cybersecurity reporting standards to the owner or operator; and
10 generally relating to critical infrastructure protection.

11 BY adding to

12 Article – Public Safety

13 Section 14–1401 through 14–1404 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 14. Critical
14 Infrastructure”

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

17 Preamble

18 ~~WHEREAS, It is the government’s responsibility to plan and provide for public~~
19 ~~safety, protection of public and private institutions and infrastructure, and continuity of~~
20 ~~governance; and~~

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 WHEREAS, Critical infrastructure forms the backbone of Maryland's economy,
2 public safety, and quality of life and any disruption to these systems poses a direct threat
3 to the health, safety, and welfare of Maryland residents and visitors; and

4 WHEREAS, Effective protection of critical infrastructure requires coordinated
5 planning, information sharing, and preparedness among State and local governments,
6 private sector owners and operators, federal partners, and regional stakeholders to identify
7 vulnerabilities, mitigate risks, and respond rapidly to emerging threats; and

8 WHEREAS, Maryland's proximity to the nation's capital, its many points of entry
9 into the United States, and the multitude of high-profile targets in the
10 Washington-Baltimore region require homeland security to be a top priority of the
11 Governor; now, therefore,

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

14 **Article – Public Safety**

15 **SUBTITLE 14. CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE.**

16 **14-1401.**

17 **(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**
18 **INDICATED.**

19 **(B) “BRANCH” MEANS THE CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION**
20 **BRANCH.**

21 **(C) “CENTER” MEANS THE MARYLAND COORDINATION AND ANALYSIS**
22 **CENTER.**

23 **(D) (1) “CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE” MEANS ASSETS, SYSTEMS, AND**
24 **NETWORKS, WHETHER PHYSICAL OR VIRTUAL, CONSIDERED BY THE U.S.**
25 **DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY TO BE SO VITAL TO THE UNITED STATES**
26 **THAT THEIR INCAPACITATION OR DESTRUCTION WOULD HAVE A DEBILITATING**
27 **EFFECT ON ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

28 **(I) SECURITY;**

29 **(II) NATIONAL ECONOMIC SECURITY;**

30 **(III) NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH; OR**

31 **(IV) SAFETY.**

1 **(2) “CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE” INCLUDES A HOSPITAL OR**
2 **HEALTH CARE FACILITY.**

3 **(E) “EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR” MEANS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE**
4 **MARYLAND COORDINATION AND ANALYSIS CENTER.**

5 **14-1402.**

6 **THERE IS A CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION BRANCH IN THE**
7 **MARYLAND COORDINATION AND ANALYSIS CENTER.**

8 **14-1403.**

9 **(A) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHALL APPOINT A CHIEF CRITICAL**
10 **INFRASTRUCTURE OFFICER FOR THE BRANCH.**

11 **(B) THE CHIEF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE OFFICER SHALL:**

12 **(1) ADMINISTER AND OPERATE THE BRANCH, IN ACCORDANCE WITH**
13 **THIS SUBTITLE;**

14 **(2) IMPLEMENT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE;**

15 **(3) DIRECT CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY EFFORTS ACROSS**
16 **THE STATE;**

17 **(4) COORDINATE WITH:**

18 **(I) THE DIRECTOR OF THE GOVERNOR’S OFFICE OF**
19 **HOMELAND SECURITY;**

20 **(II) CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE INDUSTRY, LOCAL, AND**
21 **FEDERAL COUNTERPART ORGANIZATIONS; ~~AND~~**

22 **(III) THE NATIONAL GUARD;**

23 ~~**(III)**~~ **(IV) THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY;**
24 **AND**

25 **(V) OTHER KEY STAKEHOLDERS IDENTIFIED BY THE CHIEF**
26 **CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE OFFICER; AND**

1 **(5) ~~(I) ENGAGE WITH CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROVIDERS ON~~**
2 **~~VOLUNTARY CYBER AND PHYSICAL ASSESSMENTS; AND~~**

3 **~~(II) PROVIDE CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROVIDERS WITH~~**
4 **~~BEST PRACTICES FOR SECURITY AND THE RESULTS OF VOLUNTARY ASSESSMENTS;~~**
5 **~~AND~~**

6 **~~(6)~~ ADVISE THE GOVERNOR AND THE DIRECTOR OF THE**
7 **GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY ON CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE**
8 **SECURITY ISSUES.**

9 **14-1404.**

10 **(A) THE BRANCH SHALL:**

11 **(1) IDENTIFY CURRENT AND POTENTIAL THREATS TO THE STATE'S**
12 **CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE;**

13 **(2) PRIORITIZE THE STATE'S CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE ASSETS BY:**

14 **(I) IN COORDINATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF**
15 **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, THE OFFICE OF SECURITY MANAGEMENT, AND THE**
16 **PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION, DETERMINING THE THREAT LEVEL TO THE STATE'S**
17 **CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE, FOCUSING ON FOREIGN ACTORS, DOMESTIC ACTORS,**
18 **AND INSIDER THREATS;**

19 **(II) DETERMINING THE IMPACTS TO THE STATE'S CRITICAL**
20 **INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE CASE OF A CYBERSECURITY OR PHYSICAL ATTACK;**

21 **(III) UNDERSTANDING THE EFFECT THAT THE COMPROMISE OF**
22 **ONE ASPECT OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE MAY HAVE ON ANOTHER ASPECT OF**
23 **CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE;**

24 **(IV) ENGAGING AND COORDINATING WITH CRITICAL**
25 **INFRASTRUCTURE SECTOR LEADERS, MILITARY LEADERS, AND OTHER RELEVANT**
26 **STAKEHOLDERS;**

27 **(V) IDENTIFYING THE STATE'S CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE**
28 **OPERATIONAL TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS; AND**

29 **(VI) ~~STRENGTHENING~~ SUPPORTING THE STATE'S CRITICAL**
30 **INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITY ASSETS BY:**

1 1. CONNECTING PRIORITY ASSETS TO RESOURCES FOR
2 CONDUCTING INTEGRATED ASSESSMENTS OF THE STATE'S CRITICAL
3 INFRASTRUCTURE TO DETECT AND DOCUMENT VULNERABILITIES AND
4 OPERATIONAL DEPENDENCIES;

5 2. ~~SUPPORTING~~ IDENTIFYING TECHNICAL AND GRANT
6 OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT REMEDIATION OF IDENTIFIED VULNERABILITIES; AND

7 3. ~~ASSISTING IN THE COMPLETION OF VULNERABILITY~~
8 ~~REMEDATION; AND~~ ESTABLISHING MECHANISMS TO SUPPORT SHARED LEARNING
9 AND BEST PRACTICES BETWEEN DIFFERENT CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE ASSETS.

10 4. ~~IMPLEMENTING OPERATIONAL TECHNOLOGY~~
11 ~~ARCHITECTURE MONITORING THROUGH THE MARYLAND INFORMATION SHARING~~
12 ~~AND ANALYSIS CENTER.~~

13 (B) THE DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, ~~IN CONSULTATION~~
14 ~~WITH THE CENTER,~~ SHALL COORDINATE CONSEQUENCE MANAGEMENT EFFORTS
15 AND RESPOND TO CASCADING IMPACTS OF AN ATTACK ON THE STATE'S CRITICAL
16 INFRASTRUCTURE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS TITLE.

17 (C) THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, IN CONSULTATION
18 WITH THE CENTER, SHALL:

19 (1) ALLOW THE OWNER OR OPERATOR OF CRITICAL
20 INFRASTRUCTURE TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE MARYLAND INFORMATION
21 SHARING AND ANALYSIS CENTER; ~~AND~~

22 (2) PROVIDE UP-TO-DATE CYBERSECURITY REPORTING STANDARDS
23 TO AN OWNER OR OPERATOR OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE; AND

24 (3) DIRECT CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE CYBERSECURITY EFFORTS
25 ACROSS THE UNITS OF STATE GOVERNMENT.

26 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That it is the intent of the General
27 Assembly that nothing in this Act shall be interpreted to supersede, abrogate, modify, limit,
28 or otherwise affect any cybersecurity regulation, requirement, or authority that is currently
29 in effect and that applies to critical infrastructure entities that are under federal, State, or
30 sector-specific regulatory frameworks.

31 SECTION ~~2~~ 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
32 July 1, 2026.