

SENATE BILL 739

C4, M3

6lr2505
CF 6lr2155

By: Senator Kramer

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2026

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Climate Change, Homeowner's Insurance, and Emergency Management – Study**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the University System of Maryland to conduct a study to
4 evaluate the relationship between climate change, homeowner's insurance, and
5 emergency and disaster preparedness; and generally relating to a study on the
6 relationship between climate change, homeowner's insurance, and emergency
7 management.

8 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

9 That:

10 (a) The University System of Maryland shall conduct a study to evaluate the
11 relationship between climate change, the availability and price of homeowner's insurance,
12 and emergency and disaster preparedness.

13 (b) The University System of Maryland shall conduct the study required under
14 subsection (a) of this section in coordination with and oversight by:

15 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of
16 the Senate;

17 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the
18 House;

19 (3) the Department of Natural Resources;

20 (4) the Department of the Environment;

21 (5) the Maryland Department of Emergency Management;

22 (6) the Maryland Insurance Administration;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (7) a County Emergency Manager, appointed by the Maryland Association
2 of Counties; and

(8) a Municipal Emergency Manager, appointed by the Maryland Municipal League.

5 (c) The study shall evaluate:

(1) the extent to which climate change has contributed to the decreasing availability of and increasing costs associated with homeowner's insurance;

(2) the impact of recent and future changes in federal policies and grant funding streams related to disaster preparedness, response, recovery, mitigation, and resilience;

11 (3) how federal funding has supported emergency management
12 capabilities across the five emergency management mission areas identified by the Federal
13 Emergency Management Agency; and

14 (4) existing local resources or reserve funds available for disaster recovery
15 needs.

16 (d) (1) On or before January 1, 2027, the University System of Maryland shall
17 submit its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly, in accordance with §
18 2-1257 of the State Government Article.

19 (2) The report required under this subsection shall:

20 (i) include an overview of the current state of the National Flood
21 Insurance Program, Community Rating System, and the private flood insurance market;
22 and

23 (ii) make recommendations on:

24 1. how the State can incentivize residents to invest in
25 improvements to protect homes or mitigate damage from extreme weather events, using:

26 A. tax credits;

27 B. waivers;

28 C. grants;

29 D. loans; or

3. best practices for funding emergency management capabilities based on an evaluation of similar practices in other states;

14 5. recurring, dedicated funding mechanisms;

15 6. annual per capita funding levels; and

19 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
20 1, 2026.