

SENATE BILL 825

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6lr2098
CF HB 1239

By: **Senator Hester**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2026

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

A BILL ENTITLED

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

21 WHEREAS, Critical infrastructure forms the backbone of Maryland’s economy,
22 public safety, and quality of life and any disruption to these systems poses a direct threat
23 to the health, safety, and welfare of Maryland residents and visitors; and

24 WHEREAS, Effective protection of critical infrastructure requires coordinated
25 planning, information sharing, and preparedness among State and local governments,

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



private sector owners and operators, federal partners, and regional stakeholders to identify vulnerabilities, mitigate risks, and respond rapidly to emerging threats; and

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

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

Article – Public Safety

SUBTITLE 14. CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE.

14-1401.

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

(B) "BRANCH" MEANS THE CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION BRANCH.

(C) "CENTER" MEANS THE MARYLAND COORDINATION AND ANALYSIS CENTER.

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

(I) SECURITY;

(II) NATIONAL ECONOMIC SECURITY;

(III) NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH; OR

(IV) SAFETY.

(2) "CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE" INCLUDES A HOSPITAL OR HEALTH CARE FACILITY.

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

14-1402.

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

14-1403.

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

(B) THE CHIEF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE OFFICER SHALL:

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

(2) IMPLEMENT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE;

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

(4) COORDINATE WITH:

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

(II) CRITICAL INDUSTRY, LOCAL, AND FEDERAL COUNTERPART ORGANIZATIONS; AND

(III) OTHER KEY STAKEHOLDERS IDENTIFIED BY THE CHIEF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE OFFICER;

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

(II) PROVIDE CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROVIDERS WITH BEST PRACTICES FOR SECURITY AND THE RESULTS OF VOLUNTARY ASSESSMENTS; AND

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

14-1404.

(A) THE BRANCH SHALL:

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

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

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

(II) DETERMINING THE IMPACTS TO THE STATE'S CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE CASE OF A CYBERSECURITY ATTACK;

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

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

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

(VI) STRENGTHENING THE STATE'S CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITY ASSETS BY:

1. CONDUCTING INTEGRATED ASSESSMENTS OF THE STATE'S CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE TO DETECT AND DOCUMENT VULNERABILITIES AND OPERATIONAL DEPENDENCIES;

2. SUPPORTING REMEDIATION OF IDENTIFIED VULNERABILITIES;

**3. ASSISTING IN THE COMPLETION OF VULNERABILITY
REMEDATION; AND**

(B) THE DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE CENTER, SHALL COORDINATE CONSEQUENCE MANAGEMENT EFFORTS AND RESPOND TO AN ATTACK ON THE STATE’S CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS TITLE.

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

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