

# SENATE BILL 825

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6lr2098  
CF HB 1239

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By: Senator Hester

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2026

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

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## 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,

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

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

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

9 **Article – Public Safety**

10 **SUBTITLE 14. CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE.**

11 **14-1401.**

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

14 (B) “BRANCH” MEANS THE CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION  
15 BRANCH.

16 (C) “CENTER” MEANS THE MARYLAND COORDINATION AND ANALYSIS  
17 CENTER.

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

23 (I) SECURITY;

24 (II) NATIONAL ECONOMIC SECURITY;

25 (III) NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH; OR

26 (IV) SAFETY.

27 (2) “CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE” INCLUDES A HOSPITAL OR  
28 HEALTH CARE FACILITY.

1        (E) "EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR" MEANS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE  
2 MARYLAND COORDINATION AND ANALYSIS CENTER.

3 14-1402.

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

6 14-1403.

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

9        (B) THE CHIEF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE OFFICER SHALL:

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

12            (2) IMPLEMENT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE;

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

15            (4) COORDINATE WITH:

16            (I) THE DIRECTOR OF THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF  
17 HOMELAND SECURITY;

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

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

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

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

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

4 14-1404.

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

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

19 (IV) ENGAGING AND COORDINATING WITH CRITICAL  
20 INFRASTRUCTURE SECTOR LEADERS, MILITARY LEADERS, AND OTHER RELEVANT  
21 STAKEHOLDERS:

22 (v) IDENTIFYING THE STATE'S CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE  
23 OPERATIONAL TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS; AND

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

1                   3. ASSISTING IN THE COMPLETION OF VULNERABILITY  
2 REMEDIATION; AND

3                   4. IMPLEMENTING OPERATIONAL TECHNOLOGY  
4 ARCHITECTURE MONITORING THROUGH THE MARYLAND INFORMATION SHARING  
5 AND ANALYSIS CENTER.

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

10                  (C) THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, IN CONSULTATION  
11 WITH THE CENTER, SHALL:

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

15                  (2) PROVIDE UP-TO-DATE CYBERSECURITY REPORTING STANDARDS  
16 TO AN OWNER OR OPERATOR OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE.

17                  SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
18 1, 2026.