



## **Maryland Emergency Management Association**

*c/o Montgomery County Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security  
100 Edison Park Drive, 1S31, Gaithersburg, MD 20878*

[www.marylandema.org](http://www.marylandema.org)

Joseph Theobald, *President*    Michelle Lloyd, *Vice President*    Shelly Gooding, *Secretary*    Marianne Souders, *Treasurer*

January 8, 2020

State of Maryland Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee  
2 West  
Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chairman Pinsky and members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee:

The Maryland Emergency Management Association ("Association") supports Senate Bill 80 - Maryland Intrastate Emergency Management Assistance Compact (MEMAC). Local emergency managers use MEMAC to both provide and request emergency management and public safety resources across jurisdictional boundaries. If passed into law, the provisions in this bill would make it easier to enter into this compact and make resource sharing more efficient before, during, and after disasters. The Association specifically recognizes the importance of removing the requirement for a local state of emergency to be declared in order to make resource requests through MEMAC. This current requirement, which this bill removes, is an unnecessary administrative burden.

The Maryland Emergency Management Association promotes and supports an all-hazards approach to Emergency Management in the State of Maryland. Originally formed in 1986 as the Maryland Emergency Management and Civil Defense Association, the organization was formed to promote and support adequate Emergency Management and Civil Defense in the State of Maryland; coordinate the efforts of all members in a common front to protect the lives and property of all persons within the State against natural or man-made disasters or enemy action; to evaluate and disseminate the common experience and collective judgment of those specialists trained in and responsible for Emergency Management and Civil Defense activities; serve as a clearing house for ideas, suggestions and courses of action between members; and to act in concert with and in a professional advisory capacity to other organizations regarding Emergency Management and Civil Defense. Today the organization, with almost 150 members, continues to promote Emergency Management efforts across the State of Maryland. The Association welcomes local Emergency Management staff as well as Professional/Technical and Corporate Memberships. We encourage continued involvement from our retired members offering them lifetime membership and participation in Association activities.



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The Association believes this bill will improve resource management for emergency managers at the local level before, during, and after special events, incidents, and disasters. We urge you to review this bill favorably.

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Sincerely,

**Joseph J. Theobald**

Joseph J. Theobald  
President, Maryland Emergency Management Association