



# CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

---

Environmental Protection and Restoration  
Environmental Education

## Senate Bill 62

Emergency Management - Chief Resilience Officer - Appointment and Duties

Date: January 28, 2020  
To: Senate Education, Health, and Environmental  
Affairs Committee

Position: Support  
Contact: Robin Clark, Maryland Staff  
Attorney, [rclark@cbf.org](mailto:rclark@cbf.org)

---

Chesapeake Bay Foundation **SUPPORTS** SB 62 as elevating the need for coordinated resilience planning efforts throughout Maryland.

### **Confronting climate change and improving resiliency supports the Chesapeake Bay's recovery**

This bill establishes the position of Chief Resilience Officer within the Maryland Emergency Management Agency to coordinate State and local efforts to build resilience to risks identified in the Maryland Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Climate change and sea level rise pose resiliency challenges to Maryland. Rising sea levels threaten to inundate miles of Chesapeake shoreline. For the Chesapeake Bay, warmer waters exacerbate the Bay's dead zones, stressing fish and other forms of marine life critical to the Bay's restoration.

### **Building resiliency to sea-level rise will help protect vulnerable populations along the Bay's coast**

In low-lying areas throughout Maryland, storm surges combined with higher sea levels and increasingly erratic storm activity may create a "perfect storm" that will flood thousands of acres. Many of those areas are economically disadvantaged, and the combination of flooding and limited access to emergency facilities—facilities that might themselves be flooded—could be disastrous.

### **Access to federal funding will support Maryland's efforts on climate and the hazards created by climate change**

This bill rightfully elevates the importance of resiliency through establishing responsibility for statewide coordination of resiliency efforts for risks identified in the Maryland Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Chief Resiliency Officer's success in identifying and securing federal, State, and local funding streams will be critical to Maryland's ability to confront the hazards associated with climate change.

### **CBF urges the Committee's FAVORABLE report on SB 62.**

Maryland Office | Philip Merrill Environmental Center | 6 Herndon Avenue | Annapolis Maryland 21403 | 410 268-8816 | CBF.ORG

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization dedicated to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay. With 300,000 members and e-subscribers, including over 109,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Bay and its resources.