

SB62: Emergency Management - Chief Resiliency Officer - Appointment and Duties

Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

January 28, 2021

Positon: Favorable

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Members of the Committee,

As climate change impacts across Maryland increase and intensify, the state of Maryland should create a position that is responsible for coordinating activities across our myriad of state agencies and local governments and manage and identify funding streams for these resilience efforts.

Similar positions exist in other states, including Virginia, New Jersey, Louisiana, Oregon, Florida, Colorado, and Rhode Island. Many of these states, particularly Florida and Louisiana, have similar threat levels to sea level rise to Maryland. Coordination across our state, and looking to actions in other states to model will streamline Maryland's response to our own threats.

Creating a position that has the task to coordinate resilience efforts across Maryland's state and local activities promotes efficiency, and serve as a single resource point, will strengthen Maryland's approach to the increasing threat of climate change.

Thank you,

Emily Ranson
Clean Water Action
eranson@cleanwater.org