

**SB 62\_CBF\_SUPPORT\_RobinClark.pdf**

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Position: FAV



# CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

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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)

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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.

# **ANCR Testimony on MD SB62.pdf**

Uploaded by: Colker, Ryan

Position: FAV

TESTIMONY TO  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS  
PROVIDED BY  
ALLIANCE FOR NATIONAL & COMMUNITY RESILIENCE  
IN SUPPORT OF SB62

Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 62 to establish a state Chief Resilience Officer. We commend Senators Hester and Elfretth for their leadership in advancing this bill and look forward to working with the Senate and House of Delegates on its passage.

Establishing a Chief Resilience Officer (CRO) will position Maryland to effectively address the myriad social, economic and environmental challenges before us. In 2020 the Nation experienced a record number of climate or weather disasters causing \$1 billion in losses or more. These 22 disasters far eclipsed the prior record of 16 set in 2011 and 2017. Since 1980 Maryland has been impacted by 60 such events.<sup>1</sup> These \$1 billion events do not account for the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and other disasters that impact communities but did exceed the \$1 billion threshold. It also does not include the disasters that develop over time including the impacts of sea-level rise due to climate change.

In addition to the losses of property, disasters impact lives and livelihoods. Acute shocks like flooding and derechos displace businesses and residents, cause loss of power, and disrupt educational pathways. And these impacts are disproportionately felt by vulnerable populations and people of color.<sup>2</sup>

Meanwhile, governments have limited resources to address these risks—both fiscally and technically. Therefore, a holistic approach that can identify co-benefits from mitigation strategies, policy levers and funding sources is necessary. Additionally, many of the risks, shock and stresses and the solutions to address them are interrelated.

The Alliance for National & Community Resilience (ANCR) was established in recognition of the challenges outlined above. A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, ANCR was founded by the International Code Council and the U.S. Resiliency Council and brings together representatives from the public and private sector. Our leadership has included representatives from leading businesses like Target and Dupont and resilience practitioners from New York City; Washington, DC; and Pinellas County, Florida.

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<sup>1</sup> NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) U.S. Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters (2021). <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/billions/>, DOI: [10.25921/stkw-7w73](https://doi.org/10.25921/stkw-7w73)

<sup>2</sup> SAMHSA (2017). Greater Impact: How Disasters Affect People of Low Socioeconomic Status. [https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/dtac/srb-low-ses\\_2.pdf](https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/dtac/srb-low-ses_2.pdf).

We saw that interest in resilience solutions was growing, but many of the initiatives developed under the rubric of resilience were focused on a single infrastructure or social service delivery systems, not recognizing that communities (which we define broadly from the scale of a state down to a neighborhood or campus) are actually a complex, interconnected system of systems. Individual systems rarely operate in isolation from one another.

ANCR aims to provide the information that communities need to understand and benchmark their current level of resiliency, identify and understand options available to fill gaps and increase resiliency, and to understand the future benefits to be gained by investing in advance of the next hazard event.

ANCR identified 19 community functions that cut across the social, organizational and infrastructural aspects of communities. See Figure 1. We believe that a community is only as resilient as its weakest link, so communities need the tools to identify and improve these weak links. ANCR is developing a coordinated set of benchmarks that looks at each community function individually, but also how they contribute to the resilience of a community as a whole.

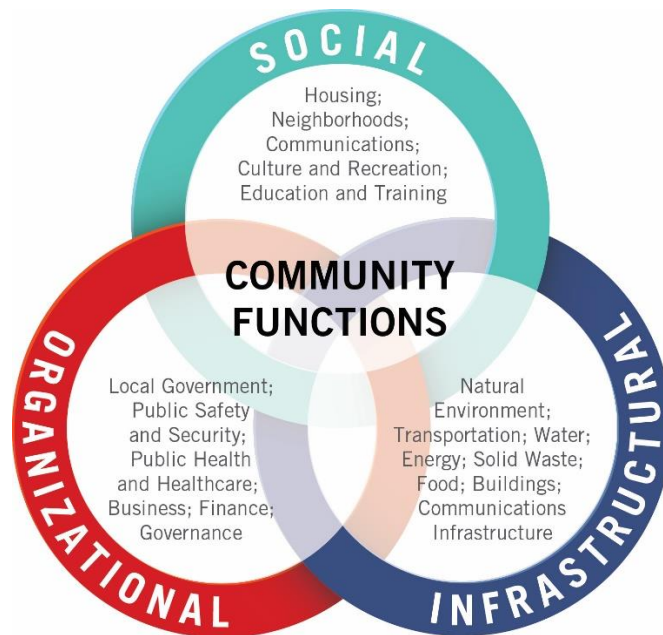


Figure 1. Community Functions Identified by ANCR






Effectively advancing resilience requires a leader with the ability to look across community functions to understand the interdependencies across these functions, how they influence the resilience of each other and how strategic, cross-sector policies and programs can be deployed to address common challenges across these functions. In other words, a Chief Resilience Officer.

As recognized in the legislation, resilience requires an understanding of the current situation and metrics to support long-term evaluation of progress towards meeting established resilience goals. The ANCR Community Resilience Benchmarks (CRBs) are designed to provide

communities with tools to assess their current state of resilience, identify initiatives that can improve resilience, and support monitoring of progress. The CRBs can be effectively used with other resilience planning tools including the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) *Community Resilience Planning Guide for Buildings and Infrastructure*.<sup>3</sup> We look forward to working with the CRO and the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science to leverage the content of the CRBs.

The proactive focus on preparing communities for shocks and stresses in advance of hazard events is highly cost effective. Post-disaster recovery and rebuilding is expensive, placing strain on federal and state budgets and personnel—not to mention the impact on the people affected. Policies and programs focused on preparation and pre-disaster mitigation can reduce the impacts of future events while also supporting jobs and economic activity.

The Congressionally established National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS) conducted an extensive benefit cost analysis on various mitigation measures. NIBS found that, at a national level, investments in pre-disaster mitigation can provide up to \$11 of savings for each \$1 invested (with local or hazard-specific benefits potentially reaching \$32 or more).<sup>4</sup> See Figure 2.

National Institute of BUILDING SCIENCES™		ADOPT CODE	ABOVE CODE	BUILDING RETROFIT	LIFELINE RETROFIT	FEDERAL GRANTS
<b>Overall Benefit-Cost Ratio</b>		<b>11:1</b>	<b>4:1</b>	<b>4:1</b>	<b>4:1</b>	<b>6:1</b>
<b>Cost (\$ billion)</b>		<b>\$1/year</b>	<b>\$4/year</b>	<b>\$520</b>	<b>\$0.6</b>	<b>\$27</b>
<b>Benefit (\$ billion)</b>		<b>\$13/year</b>	<b>\$16/year</b>	<b>\$2200</b>	<b>\$2.5</b>	<b>\$160</b>
 <b>Riverine Flood</b>		6:1	5:1	6:1	8:1	7:1
 <b>Hurricane Surge</b>		not applicable	7:1	not applicable	not applicable	not applicable
 <b>Wind</b>		10:1	5:1	6:1	7:1	5:1
 <b>Earthquake</b>		12:1	4:1	13:1	3:1	3:1
 <b>Wildland-Urban Interface Fire</b>		not applicable	4:1	2:1	not applicable	3:1

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Figure 2. Benefit Cost Ratio for Various Hazard Mitigation Measures

Based on the growth in post-disaster response and recovery costs and the strong benefit cost ratios for pre-disaster mitigation, federal grant programs are increasingly looking to support initiatives that help states and localities lessen the impacts up front. The new Building Resilient

<sup>3</sup> See *Using the ANCR Community Resilience Benchmarks with the NIST Community Resilience Planning Guide*, [http://www.resilientalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/ANCR\\_Community\\_Resilience\\_Benchmarks\\_and\\_NIST\\_RPT\\_FINAL\\_LORES\\_compressed\\_1.pdf](http://www.resilientalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/ANCR_Community_Resilience_Benchmarks_and_NIST_RPT_FINAL_LORES_compressed_1.pdf).

<sup>4</sup> Multi-Hazard Mitigation Council (2019). *Natural Hazard Mitigation Saves: 2019 Report*. Principal Investigator Porter, K.; Co-Principal Investigators Dash, N., Huyck, C., Santos, J., Scawthorn, C.; Investigators: Eguchi, M., Eguchi, R., Ghosh, S., Isteita, M., Mickey, K., Rashed, T., Reeder, A.; Schneider, P.; and Yuan, J., Directors, MMC. Investigator Intern: Cohen-Porter, A. National Institute of Building Sciences. Washington, DC. [www.nibs.org/mitigationsaves](http://www.nibs.org/mitigationsaves).

Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program within the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) sets aside 6 percent of disaster spending to support pre-disaster investments.<sup>5</sup> The first batch of funding totals \$500 million. Some of this funding is awarded on a competitive basis and FEMA has identified resilience measures that weigh more heavily in favor of some projects.

The BRIC program represents just one source of funding to help enhance resilience. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) also includes funding for disaster recovery (CDBG-DR) and now hazard mitigation (CDBG-MIT). While the state can be (and has been) effective in pursuing these programs individually, these funds can be best used in support of a coordinated and deliberate strategy that looks across all community functions and state programs and identifies the areas of greatest need and biggest impact.

A CRO with access to information from across the state government, tools to effectively organize that information and monitor progress, and the mandate to enhance the resilience of the state is in the best position to prepare the state and its residents from the hazards ahead and leverage available funding to capture the significant cost savings resilience provides.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this legislation. As the legislative process moves forward and the CRO begins their work, The Alliance for National & Community Resilience (ANCR) is poised to assist in the resilience planning process and associated benchmarking. Please reach out to ANCR Executive Director Ryan Colker ([ANCR@resilientalliance.org](mailto:ANCR@resilientalliance.org), 202-269-5795).

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/building-resilient-infrastructure-communities>

**MDGA\_SenatorHester\_FAV\_SB62.docx.pdf**

Uploaded by: Hester, Katie

Position: FAV



**KATIE FRY HESTER**  
*Legislative District 9*  
Carroll and Howard Counties

Education, Health, and  
Environmental Affairs Committee

Chair, Joint Committee on  
Cybersecurity, Information Technology  
and Biotechnology



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**THE SENATE OF MARYLAND**  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony in Support of SB62 - Emergency Management - Chief Resilience Officer -  
Appointment and Duties**

January 28th, 2020

Chair Pinsky, Vice-Chair Kagan, and Members of the Health and Government Operations  
Committee:

Thank you for your consideration of Senate Bill 62. Over the past two years, I have had the honor of serving as the Senator representing District 9, which includes Ellicott City. Like many communities in your own district, Ellicott City has been grappling with the issues of climate change and catastrophic flooding - not as some far off and hypothetical danger, but as an all too real aspect of daily life. The experience of my constituents, living through two “thousand-year floods” over the course of two years, is of a magnitude that I hope is not indicative of the direction of our vulnerable communities. But as a coastal state with a great deal of inland tributaries, we as policy makers should be concerned about the implications of climate change and sea level rise on the projected increase in frequency and severity of flooding, and other environmental emergencies threatening Marylanders.

Today, 81,000 Marylanders are at risk of coastal flooding, with 38,000 more individuals projected to also be at risk by 2050. In the same time frame, our state is projected to face up to \$19 billion worth of damage due to sea level rise and flooding. We are capable of preparing for and managing a threat of this magnitude, but doing so will require a great deal of thoughtfulness, coordination, and accountability.

This bill will create the position of the Chief Resilience Officer (CRO) within the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), responsible for:

- coordinating state and local agencies engaged in building resilience to risks related to climate change, as identified in the Maryland Hazard Mitigation Plan;

- leveraging funding streams and technical resources at the Federal, State, and Local levels to support Maryland resilience efforts;
- working with the Adaptation and Resiliency Workgroup of the Maryland Commission on Climate Change to coordinate resilience strategy across state agencies, and update the resilience strategy for the State;
- working with the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES) to establish baseline indicators, goals, and metrics to guide resilience efforts, and to produce an economic analysis of the state's resilience efforts;
- working with the Department of the Environment to review the State's Flood Insurance Rate Maps;
- and engaging with stakeholders in industries impacted by climate change.

This bill also includes a requirement for the CRO to produce a report that would include an overview of the CRO's yearly activities, as well as recommendations for the possible establishment of a resilience program in the Governor's office of Homeland Security. These measures are intended to bring transparency to the CRO's role, as well as to guide the State's long term resilience strategy.

The more capacity we have to coordinate these efforts, the more efficient Maryland's resilience system will be as a whole - saving lives and livelihoods, and reducing the costs of natural disasters in the process. Having an individual who is responsible for and dedicated to the coordination of these complex and ambitious goals will allow Maryland to make sure every dollar and minute we spend on resilience goes as far as possible to benefit each and every one of our communities. **For that reason, I respectfully request a favorable report from this committee.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katie Fry Hester". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Senator Katie Fry Hester  
Howard and Carroll Counties

### **Adaptation and Resiliency Workgroup of the MD Commission on Climate Change**

- 1) Support the CRO in coordinating efforts across state agencies.
- 2) Assist the CRO in producing an updated adaptation and resilience strategy
- 3) Review and alter the membership of the Workgroup at the request of the CRO

### **The University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science**

- 1) Assist the CRO in establishing baseline goals and indicators for the resilience efforts of the State.
- 2) Assist the CRO in producing an economic analysis and policy benchmark report on the State's resilience efforts.
- 3) Assist the CRO in identifying potential State, Federal, and private sources of necessary resilience resources.

### **Maryland Department of the Environment**

- 1) Assist the CRO in reviewing and developing recommendations for Maryland's Flood Insurance Rate Maps

### **Chief Resilience Officer**

- 1) Oversee the development of a State Resiliency Strategy
- 2) Coordinate efforts across State and Local agencies
- 3) Identify and secure funding streams and technical assistance across all levels of government
- 4) Work with business leaders from industries vulnerable to risks identified in the Maryland Hazard Mitigation Plan.

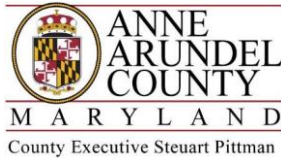
### **Outcomes**

- 1) Increased coordination of Federal, State, Local, and private resilience efforts
- 2) Identification, securing, and optimization of Federal, State, and Local funding streams.
- 3) Creation of a State Resiliency Strategy, coordinated with the Maryland Hazard Mitigation Plan
- 4) A systematic review of the State's Flood Insurance Rate Maps
- 5) Establishment of resilience baselines and metrics to monitor ongoing resilience efforts

**Anne Arundel County\_FAV\_SB0062.pdf**

Uploaded by: Johnston, Matthew

Position: FAV



January 28, 2021

**Senate Bill 0062**  
**Emergency Management – Chief Resilience Officer – Appointment and Duties**  
**Committee: Education, Health and Environmental Affairs**

**Position: FAVORABLE**

Climate change presents a current and future danger to the residents of Anne Arundel County. A 2019 report<sup>1</sup> by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) predicts the City of Annapolis could experience high-tide flooding events every other day by 2050 due to rising sea levels. The Maryland Department of Transportation estimates that many coastal communities within Anne Arundel County could find themselves within regulated floodplains due to sea level rise by 2050 or 2100.<sup>2</sup> And our communities are suffering from more frequent stormwater flooding events caused by stronger storms.

Anne Arundel County is aggressively pursuing funding to mitigate such impacts of climate change and create more resilient communities. Last year the County applied for \$4.1 million in Building Resilience Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grants funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and managed by the Maryland Emergency Management Association (MEMA). The Administration thanks MEMA for all the resources it provided to help us navigate the new grant proposal requirements. This \$4.1 million request is only the beginning, and we anticipate much larger requests from ourselves and other Maryland counties in future years as the risks of climate change become ever clearer and the window of opportunity to mitigate those risks becomes ever narrower.

The Administration is also pursuing local legislation and policy changes to create more resilient communities. We will soon submit legislation to the Anne Arundel Council that will create a Resilience Authority, as authorized by last year's bipartisan Senate Bill 457. The Authority will study community-based mitigation options and seek out innovative state, federal and private funding sources to build resilience infrastructure projects. The Administration is also exploring options to update building standards within communities that may be impacted by climate change.

All of these local efforts to mitigate climate impacts would benefit from the creation of a dedicated Chief Resilience Officer within MEMA. Such an officer would present local governments with a single point of contact when seeking assistance to develop local mitigation strategies and pursue funding.

For all these reasons, the Anne Arundel County Administration requests a **FAVORABLE** vote on SB 0062.

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<sup>1</sup> NOAA. 2019. 2019 State of US High Tide Flooding with a 2020 Outlook: NOAA Technical Report NOS CO-OPS 092. Available at: [https://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/publications/Techrpt\\_092\\_2019\\_State\\_of\\_US\\_High\\_Tide\\_Flooding\\_with\\_a\\_2020\\_Outlook\\_30June2020.pdf](https://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/publications/Techrpt_092_2019_State_of_US_High_Tide_Flooding_with_a_2020_Outlook_30June2020.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> Maryland Department of Transportation. 2016. GIS Data Products to Support Climate Change Adaptation Planning: Anne Arundel County, Maryland. Available at: <https://www.esrgc.org/documents/resources/reports/GIS%20SLC%20Report%20-%20Anne%20Arundel.pdf>.

# **SB 62 Emergency Management - Chief Resilience Offi**

Uploaded by: Kerr, Cait

Position: FAV

**Thursday January 28, 2021**

**TO:** Paul Pinsky, Chair of Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee and Committee Members

**FROM:** Caitlin Kerr, The Nature Conservancy, Conservation & Climate Policy Analyst; and Kelly Leo, The Nature Conservancy, Maryland Resilient Coasts Program Director

**POSITION:** Support SB 62 Emergency Management – Chief Resilience Officer – Appointment and Duties

The Nature Conservancy strongly supports SB 62 offered by Senator Hester. SB 62 would establish the Chief Resilience Officer position within the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) with the intent of increasing the agency's capacity to take a proactive approach to disaster mitigation and resilience. This new position would be responsible for increasing planning capacity, developing baselines and metrics for success, coordinating state and local responses to climate impacts, incorporating vulnerable private industries into programs and strategies, and identifying and streamlining funding for building resilience. The Chief Resilience Officer would be incorporated into existing state resilience and adaptation building through membership on the Maryland Commission on Climate Change and through involvement in the State Hazard Mitigation Plan development, building from the strong foundation that initiatives like the Maryland Adaptation Framework provide. The position would allow our state and local governments to capitalize on significant changes at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) through new funding opportunities aimed at pre-disaster mitigation.

Establishing a Chief Resilience Officer will elevate Maryland among the ranks of the nation's resilience leaders, following the example set by nearly a dozen other states and many more major cities across the U.S., from Virginia to New Jersey, Philadelphia, Louisiana, North Carolina, Oregon, Florida, Colorado, Rhode Island, and Boston, to name a few. Each of these cities and states has established similar positions. As a result, networks already exist to share information about how to maximize resilience by providing cohesive, strategic, and cross-jurisdictional leadership at the necessary scale. This legislation will allow Maryland to access the same benefits for our agencies, state and local governments, vulnerable private industries and communities.

We are already experiencing climate change impacts across Maryland and these will only increase in frequency and severity in the coming years. The most significant threats we are currently experiencing are due to increased sea level rise and erosion, changes in precipitation, including increased frequency of flash floods and storm surge, and increased temperatures. In many places, these issues compound each other. Parts of the state that were susceptible to flooding from past storms now experience nuisance flooding on a far more regular basis, resulting in damaged infrastructure and disruption to emergency services. Increased capacity, resources, leadership, and connectivity between state agencies and local governments is necessary to address these growing threats and local needs.

Here in Maryland, we have already observed one foot of sea level rise since the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century with an additional foot of rise expected by 2050. Localized land subsidence accelerates rates of erosion, thereby compounding the risks from sea level rise. By 2100, studies predict we may see up to three additional feet of sea level rise. The impacts are already being felt in communities across our state. Currently, over \$15 billion in property is directly in the path of projected rise. Cities like Annapolis have seen a doubling in coastal flood days over the past decade when compared to the previous one. The latest science tells us that flooding events could more than double in frequency in places like Baltimore as soon as 2035. On the Eastern Shore, Dorchester County is predicted to shrink from the 4<sup>th</sup> largest county by land area to the 14<sup>th</sup> by 2100, and saltwater intrusion is already damaging crop yields.

Across the state, coastal flooding currently threatens 81,000 people and, with predicted rise, an additional 38,000 will be in jeopardy by 2050. Sea level rise puts people, property, infrastructure, and critical natural resources at risk with staggering costs to our economy, livelihoods and our very way of life.

Changes in precipitation patterns exacerbate sea level rise impacts but also create different issues in non-coastal areas. More frequent and intense storm events are overburdening critical infrastructure like roads, sewer systems and the electric grid. As a state, we have spent billions of dollars improving our storm and wastewater infrastructure to improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay. Increased precipitation and storm severity could directly undermine those investments. This exact issue arose after Hurricane Sandy, which caused 84.3 million gallons of sewage to be released into the Bay due to infrastructure damages. Precipitation changes in Western Maryland are making our forests less resilient to pests and pathogens. These issues have human health impacts: we are seeing increases in human disease vectors including ticks and mosquitoes.

Increases in temperature are also harming human health; in Baltimore City, temperatures reach up to 21°F hotter than in surrounding rural areas. By 2050, the city is estimated to experience five times as many dangerous heat days with a heat index over 105°F as we did at the start of the century. These impacts are not limited to cities; across Maryland, we average ten days a year when heat exceeds dangerous levels. This number is predicted to rise to forty days annually by 2050.

Each of these impacts demonstrate Maryland's need for increased services, funding and capacity from the federal, state and local governments. The new position that SB 62 seeks to create within MEMA allows for improved responses, reduced risk, and a pathway for a more proactive and comprehensive approach to mitigating and limiting climate and disaster impacts. Many of the practices and solutions we need to implement require coordination across several agencies and local jurisdictional boundaries. Fortunately, the state already has a multitude of programs in place across many agencies that improve resilience; creating this position in MEMA will expand upon that work and investment by promoting greater incorporation of emergency management perspectives within those projects and programs. This position will also be able to help agencies identify other programs and funding streams across multiple levels of government that can be paired to ensure more equitable access to resilience funding for many of Maryland's frontline, smaller, and most threatened communities.

At the federal level, FEMA is improving funding streams for proactive pre-disaster mitigation. Currently, this is a risk reduction and mitigation strategy that goes widely unfunded in Maryland. Alongside this approach comes new funding opportunities through the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Program. This program allocates 6% of the previous year's expenditures toward building resilience. These funds are awarded through competitive grants and aim to fund large, ambitious projects that address multiple issues. By creating the Chief Resilience Officer in MEMA, we will improve Maryland's ability to access these funds through increasing levels of coordination across the state and codifying a position focused on pre-disaster mitigation.

Due to the overwhelming climate threats to our state, and the increasingly urgent need to move toward more proactive approaches for building resilience, the Conservancy strongly supports creating the Chief Resilience Officer position. Adding the lens of disaster risk reduction to our resilience building projects and programs will not only strengthen and protect our communities, but also lend itself to accessing increased streams of federal funds. Greater capacity will allow state agencies to better recognize opportunities for projects that meet their legislated mandates of promoting clean water and citizen health, while also improving Maryland's ability to adapt and persist in the face of a changing environment.

We commend Senator Hester on introducing this bill, which will strengthen Maryland's approach to disaster mitigation and climate change, protect public health and safety, and generate new capacity, networks, funding, and resources to build a more resilient Maryland.

**Therefore, we urge a favorable report on SB 62.**



# **SB 62 Emergency Management – Chief Resilience Offi**

Uploaded by: Kerr, Cait

Position: FAV



Thursday January 28, 2021

**SB 62 Emergency Management – Chief Resilience Officer – Appointment and Duties  
Position: Favorable**

**TO:** Paul Pinsky, Chair of Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee and Committee Members

The undersigned organizations support SB 62 offered by Senators Hester and Elfreth. This legislation seeks to create a Chief Resilience Officer in the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), which is tasked with coordinating activities across many state agencies, making connections between the work of those agencies and the needs of local governments, and identifying and securing funding streams for resilience efforts. The Chief Resilience Officer would be incorporated into existing state resilience and adaptation building through membership on the Maryland Commission on Climate Change and through involvement in the State Hazard Mitigation Plan development at a minimum, with additional involvement to be determined after an extensive review of agency initiative to-date upon instatement, thereby building from the strong foundation that initiatives like the Maryland Adaptation Framework provide. At the federal level, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is improving funding streams for proactive pre-disaster mitigation. Currently, this is a risk reduction and mitigation strategy that goes widely unfunded in Maryland. This new position would allow our state and local governments to capitalize on these significant changes at FEMA, taking advantage of new funding opportunities aimed at pre-disaster mitigation.

We are already experiencing climate change impacts across Maryland and these will only increase in frequency and severity in the coming years. The most significant threats we are currently experiencing are due to increased sea level rise and erosion, changes in precipitation, including increased frequency of flash floods and storm surge, and increased temperatures. In many places, these issues are compounded. Parts of the state that were susceptible to flooding from past storms now experience nuisance flooding on a far more regular basis, resulting in damaged infrastructure and disruption to emergency services. Increases in temperature are also harming human health; in Baltimore City, temperatures reach up to 21°F hotter than in surrounding rural areas. By 2050, the city is estimated to experience five times as many dangerous heat days with a heat index over 105°F as we did at the start of the century. These impacts are not limited to cities; across Maryland, we average ten days a year when heat exceeds dangerous levels. This number is predicted to rise to forty days annually by 2050. Increased capacity, resources services, funding, leadership, and connectivity

between federal and state agencies and local governments is necessary to address these growing threats and local needs.

The new position that SB 62 seeks to create within MEMA allows for improved responses, reduced risk, and a pathway for a more proactive, comprehensive approach to mitigating and limiting climate and natural disaster impacts. Many of the practices and solutions we need to implement require coordination across several agencies and local jurisdictional boundaries. Fortunately, the state already has a multitude of programs in place across many agencies that improve resilience; however, creating this position in MEMA will expand upon that work and investment by promoting greater incorporation of emergency management perspectives within those projects and programs. This position will also be able to help state agencies identify other programs and funding streams across multiple levels of government that can be paired to ensure more equitable access to resilience funding for many of Maryland's frontline, smaller, and most threatened communities.

One example of this approach is new funding opportunities through the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program. This program allocates 6% of the previous year's expenditures toward building resilience. These funds are awarded through competitive grants and aim to fund large, ambitious projects that address multiple issues. By creating the Chief Resilience Officer in MEMA, we will improve Maryland's ability to access these funds through increasing levels of coordination across the state made possible by codifying a position focused on pre-disaster mitigation.

In our region and across the nation, states and cities have already taken the lead by establishing similar positions. From Virginia to New Jersey, Philadelphia, Louisiana, North Carolina, Oregon, Florida, Colorado, Rhode Island, and Boston, to name a few, each of these states and cities have used this capacity to establish networks for sharing information about how to maximize resilience by providing cohesive, strategic, and cross-jurisdictional leadership at the necessary scale. Establishing a Chief Resilience Officer will elevate Maryland among the ranks of the nation's resilience leaders and allow our state to access the same benefits for our agencies, local governments, and vulnerable economic sectors.

Adding the lens of disaster risk reduction to our resilience building projects and programs will not only protect our communities and economy, but also lends itself to accessing increased streams of federal funds. We commend Senator Hester on introducing, and Senator Elfreth on co-sponsoring, this bill, which will strengthen Maryland's approach to disaster mitigation and climate change, protect public health and safety, and generate new capacity, networks, funding, and resources to build a more resilient Maryland.

**Therefore, we urge a favorable report on SB 62.**

The Nature Conservancy MD/DC  
Climate Law & Policy Project  
Maryland Legislative Coalition  
Women Indivisible Strong Effective (WISE)  
Chesapeake Bay Foundation  
Indivisible Howard County  
MLC Climate Justice Wing  
Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee

ShoreRivers  
Clean Water Action

# **CBall\_2021 - SB 62 Emergency Management - Chief Re**

Uploaded by: Manley , Josh

Position: FAV



## HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE

3430 Courthouse Drive ■ Ellicott City, Maryland 21043 ■ 410-313-2013 Voice/Relay

Calvin Ball  
Howard County Executive  
cball@howardcountymd.gov

www.howardcountymd.gov  
FAX 410-313-3051

January 28, 2020

Senator Paul G. Pinsky, Chair  
Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee  
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 West  
Annapolis, MD 21041

Re: Testimony **IN SUPPORT** of SB 62: Emergency Management – Chief Resilience Officer  
– Appointment and Duties

Dear Chair Pinsky and Members of the Committee,

While the impacts of our changing climate can be felt across the national and around the world, as a coastal state, Maryland is especially vulnerable to the effects of this global phenomena.

In their state climate summary for Maryland, NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information stated that both precipitation and the frequency of intense rainfall events is projected to increase, leading to an enhanced risk for flooding. Large additional increases in sea level rise are also projected with potentially significant environmental and economic impacts, according to NOAA.

In the absence of a more coordinated strategy, local jurisdictions are currently tackling these issues individually, sometimes with limited resources and expertise. The breadth of the problem demands a cohesive statewide plan that provides local government with necessary assistance and invites collaboration between state and local governments.

Senate Bill 62, proposed by Senator Katie Fry Hester, would create the position of Chief Resilience Officer. The Chief Resilience Officer would coordinate the efforts of state and local agencies responsible for resilience associated with climate change, as identified in the Maryland Hazard Mitigation Plan. This important position would also be responsible for identifying and securing federal and state funding that will assist our local jurisdictions with implementing resiliency projects that keep our communities safe and environmentally sustainable. If created, this role would play an important part of building a system of resiliency within our state.

My Administration is committed to keeping Howard County prepared to respond to natural disasters and unforeseen challenges. In my first year as County Executive, I signed the Howard County Comprehensive Emergency Response and Recovery Plan, which incorporated lessons learned from the 2016 and 2018 "one-in-1,000-year" floods that impacted Historic Ellicott City into the County's emergency response and recovery processes. Last year, as part of our *EC Safe and Sound* plan, we secured full funding for five key flood mitigation projects while also continuing to educate and provide resources to our communities to help them be more prepared for unforeseen disasters.



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Over the past year, our resiliency has been on full display as our entire county government has worked nonstop during the COVID-19 global pandemic to provide residents with information and resources, set up testing and vaccine sites, and collaborate with MEMA to implement critical planning.

Local jurisdictions across our State are working to improve Maryland's resiliency to current and future hazards. Senator Hester's bill will provide a valuable state-level coordinating officer to ensure that all relevant stakeholders can continue sharing information and best practices that will help us respond to emergencies and keep our residents and businesses secure.

For these and many other reasons, I urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 62.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Calvin Ball', written in a cursive style.

Calvin Ball  
Howard County Executive

# **TESTIMONY FOR SB0062 Emergency Management - Chief**

Uploaded by: Plante, Cecilia

Position: FAV



**TESTIMONY FOR SB0062  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT – CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER – APPOINTMENT AND  
DUTIES**

**Bill Sponsor:** Senator Hester

**Committee:** Education, Health and Environmental Affairs

**Organization Submitting:** Maryland Legislative Coalition

**Person Submitting:** Cecilia Plante, co-chair

**Position:** FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0062 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Maryland needs this position. The results of global warming have been impacting Maryland's coastal areas for years, as we see coastal flooding increasing with each year that passes. As one of the States most likely to be affected by climate change, we need a mitigation plan.

This bill introduces the position of a Chief Resilience Officer in the Maryland Emergency Management Agency. This person will be tasked with coming up with a resiliency plan that will protect against coastal flooding and work with other Agencies and persons to prepare for and reduce the adverse effects associated with extreme weather events and other natural disasters.

Until we can reverse the effects of global warming, we will need to get very, very good at resilience.

We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.



# **SB62\_CleanWaterAction\_Support\_EmilyRanson.pdf**

Uploaded by: Ranson, Emily

Position: FAV

## **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

**SB62\_MDE\_LOI.pdf**

Uploaded by: abbott, tyler

Position: INFO



January 28, 2021

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky, Chair  
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee  
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Re: Senate Bill 62 – Emergency Management - Chief Resilience Officer - Appointment and Duties**

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) has reviewed Senate Bill 62, entitled Emergency Management - Chief Resilience Officer - Appointment and Duties and would like to offer a letter of information about this legislation.

Senate Bill 62 requires the Director of the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) to appoint a Chief Resilience Officer to serve at the Director's pleasure. The Chief Resilience Officer will be responsible for coordinating State and local efforts to build resilience to risks identified in the Maryland Hazard Mitigation Plan ("Mitigation Plan"). The Chief Resilience Officer's duties will include (i) overseeing the development of a State resilience strategy, (ii) coordinating across State and local agencies to prepare and implement resilience strategies, (iii) identifying, securing and assisting in accessing Federal, State and local funding and technical assistance to support resilience efforts, and (iv) working with business leaders from industries vulnerable to risks identified in the Mitigation Plan to identify best practices for preparing and responding to those risks. From Calendar Year 2021 through 2025<sup>1</sup>, or until there is a substantial change to the risk assessment portion of the Mitigation Plan, the Chief Resilience Officer shall prioritize building resilience to coastal hazards and flooding due to climate change, and ensure the collaboration of relevant State agencies and programs in addressing that priority.

Currently, MDE is designated by FEMA as the coordinating agency for the National Flood Insurance Program ("NFIP"). The proposed bill provides that MDE will now assist the Chief Resilience Officer with reviewing the State's Flood Insurance Rate Maps. Giving the Chief Resilience Officer authority over the mapping process conflicts with MDE's role as the coordinating agency for the NFIP. FEMA provides MDE annual funding to maintain updated flood rate insurance maps. This may be affected depending on the level of involvement from the Chief Resilience Officer and MEMA.

In addition, the Chief Resilience Officer's duties would overlap with MDE's statutory authority as Chair of the Maryland Climate Change Commission to appoint workgroup members. The bill as stated is not clear whether the Chief Resilience Officer would be given authority over the efforts of other State Agencies regarding Climate Change resilience projects or if the responsibility is

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky

transferred to their office. The lack of clarity may cause operational confusion and inefficiency rather than coordination of efforts

Thank you for your consideration. We will continue to monitor Senate Bill 62 during the Committee's deliberations, and I am available to answer any questions you may have. Please feel free to contact me at 410-260-6301 or by e-mail at [tyler.abbott@maryland.gov](mailto:tyler.abbott@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tyler Abbott", written over a horizontal line.

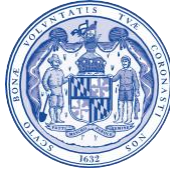
Tyler Abbott

cc: The Honorable Katie Fry Hester  
The Honorable Sarah K. Elfreth

# **SB62\_State of Md Military Dept\_INFO\_Kelly**

Uploaded by: Kelly, Catherine

Position: INFO



LARRY HOGAN  
GOVERNOR  
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

STATE OF MARYLAND  
MILITARY DEPARTMENT  
FIFTH REGIMENT ARMORY  
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21201-2288

TIMOTHY E. GOWEN  
MAJOR GENERAL  
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

January 28, 2021

Senator Paul Pinsky, Chair  
Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee  
2 East, Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: SB 62 – Emergency Management – Chief Resilience Officer – Appointment and Duties  
Letter of Information

Dear Chairman Pinsky:

I am writing to share information regarding the above referenced Senate Bill.

Senate Bill 62 establishes a Chief Resilience Officer within MEMA to enhance local resilience efforts. If this bill passes Maryland will join the list of states who have appointed a Chief Resilience Officer including Florida, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oregon, Virginia, Rhode Island, Colorado, and the District of Columbia. Countless cities are taking action on resilience activities by appointing city or town resilience officers as well.

Senate Bill 62 does compliment the ongoing resilience work across our state government. Developing a resilient future requires a systematic process involving all partners. Senate Bill 62 outlines initiatives including developing a strategy for increasing resilience, engaging governmental and non-governmental partners, aligning existing initiatives, and ensuring Maryland complies with federal codes and regulations. The bill also ties together the components of the State Hazard Mitigation Plan with Maryland's resilience strategy. By linking the State Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment with resilience efforts, Maryland's overall strategy will prioritize actions based upon greatest risk.

In 2018, MEMA and the National Governors Association hosted a resilience retreat which identified numerous outcomes and next steps. One such finding was the need to establish a comprehensive workgroup to align statewide resilience efforts. In 2019, MEMA implemented this finding, establishing the Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group (DRRWG). The DRRWG is comprised of voluntary participation from over 22 state agencies and is results focused. The goal of the group is to break down barriers, open communications, and take actionable steps to reduce disaster risk. The group continues to make good progress.

As the fiscal note for SB62 indicates there are staffing costs to the approach required by the bill. We cannot fulfill the requirements of the bill with existing resources.

Thank you for your support of the Maryland Military Department. We would be happy to provide additional information if required. Please feel free to reach out by e-mail [catherine.a.kelly26.nfg@mail.mil](mailto:catherine.a.kelly26.nfg@mail.mil) or by phone 410-446-5390.

Sincerely,

*Catherine A. Kelly*

Catherine Kelly  
Director, Legislative and Government Affairs