



**TESTIMONY FOR HB0542
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT – CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER – APPOINTMENT AND
DUTIES**

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Watson

Committee: Health and Government Operations

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0542 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.