

SB 630 Maryland Department of Emergency Management

Uploaded by: Cait Kerr

Position: FAV



Thursday, February 24, 2022

**SB 630 Maryland Department of Emergency Management – Office of Resilience
Position: Favorable**

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

The undersigned organizations support SB 630 offered by Senator Hester. This legislation seeks to establish an Office of Resilience and a Chief Resilience Officer position to direct the newly formed Office under the Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM). This new Office and position will be responsible for guiding resilience initiatives across Maryland by working closely with state agencies and local governments. This office will also be responsible for identifying and securing funding streams for these resilience efforts. At the federal level, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is improving funding streams for proactive pre-disaster mitigation. This new position would allow our state and local governments to capitalize on these significant changes at FEMA by 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. In many places, these impacts are compounded. Parts of the state that were susceptible to flooding from past storms are now experiencing nuisance flooding on a far more regular basis, resulting in damaged infrastructure and disruption to emergency services. This legislation pursues a solution to this issue by pairing the new office with the Maryland Department of Transportation to advance initiatives such as nature-based solutions in roadway upgrades, redesign, and removal projects that will reduce flooding and improve habitat health and connectivity.

Across Maryland, we are averaging 10 days a year when heat exceeds dangerous levels. This number is predicted to rise to 40 days annually by 2050. Under this legislation, the new office will work with the Department of Housing and Community Development to ensure that communities most impacted by increasing heat have access to air conditioning. The legislation also prioritizes investing in frontline communities and promoting environmental justice in climate and hazard mitigation.

While reducing emissions is absolutely crucial to avoid the worst climate impacts, we know that our communities are already being harmed and, due to committed warming, will still face these growing challenges for years to come. Mitigation and adaptation must go hand in hand in order to best protect current and future generations from a daunting climate legacy. Increased capacity, resources, services, funding, leadership, and connectivity between federal and state agencies and local governments are necessary to address these growing threats and local needs.

The new Office and Director position within MDEM allows for improved responses, reduced risk, and a pathway for a more proactive, comprehensive approach to alleviating climate and natural disaster impacts. Fortunately, the state already has a multitude of programs in place across many agencies that improve resilience; however, creating this office and position within MDEM will expand upon that work and investment by better incorporating emergency management perspectives within those projects and programs. The office will assist with administering federal prevention, protection, mitigation and recovery-focused programs as well as state mitigation grants and loans. In collaboration with state agencies, the Office will develop flood risk assessment tools for use by the state and local governments and provide services, such as technical assistance, to support developing resiliency plans. Housing these responsibilities within one state Office will ensure resilience investments prioritize frontline communities and that environmental justice considerations are made at the forefront of these programs and state services.

One example of this approach is 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 Office of Resilience in MDEM and appointing a Chief Resilience Officer, we will improve Maryland's ability to access these funds. Furthermore, in order to meet the flood risk assessment tools development goal, the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) will work with the Office of Resilience to update flood maps for current and projected precipitation levels. Using these updated maps and in conjunction with the latest scientific findings on sea level rise, state agencies, local governments, and the Office of Resilience can then work together to advance adaptation planning, including through designing corridors for marsh migration and strategizing for managed retreat in ways which protect habitat and wildlife functions as well as communities' needs. By working collaboratively and utilizing existing agency expertise, the Chief Resilience Officer will be able to direct investments to areas of greatest need in Maryland.

In our region and across the nation, states and cities have already taken the lead by establishing similar positions and offices. Cities like Boston and Philadelphia and many states, including Virginia, New Jersey, Louisiana, North Carolina, Oregon, Florida, Colorado, and Rhode Island, 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 an Office of Resilience and appointing 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 a disaster risk reduction lens 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 Senators Watson, Jackson, Guzzone, Young, Beidle, Washington, Elfreth, Kelley, Klausmeier, West, King, Ellis, Hettleman, Smith, Kagan, Patterson, Kramer, Waldstreicher, Rosapepe, Hayes, Augustine, Feldman, and Carter for 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 630.

Signed,

The Nature Conservancy, Maryland/DC
Sierra Club Maryland Chapter
Audubon Mid-Atlantic
Safe Skies Maryland
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland
Indivisible Howard County
Maryland Legislative Coalition
Climate Law & Policy Project
Chesapeake Climate Action Network Action Fund
Blue Water Baltimore
Maryland Campaign for Environmental Human Rights
NAACP Maryland State Conference
Alliance for National & Community Resilience
Maryland League of Conservation Voters
WISE
National Aquarium

SB0630_Office_of_Resilience_MLC_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Cecilia Plante

Position: FAV



TESTIMONY FOR SB0630
MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT – OFFICE OF
RESILIENCE

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 SB0630 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 office. 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.

AIA MD SB 0630 Ofc Resil Support 2.21.22.pdf

Uploaded by: Chris Parts

Position: FAV

22 February 2022

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

Re: Letter of Support for SB 0630
Maryland Department of Emergency Management - Office of Resilience

Dear Chairman Pinsky:

We support this bill to establish the Office of Resilience and coordinate State and local efforts to build resilience to risks identified in the Maryland Hazard Mitigation Plan. This office will identify and secure funding, technical assistance and work to establish best practices to prepare for, mitigate and react to the environmental risks that continue to grow everywhere.

This bill will aid and assist vulnerable communities and focus investment with an eye toward equity and environmental justice. The bill also secures cooperation across multiple state agencies / entities to combat flooding in residential areas, informing the public and further it works in the agricultural sector to meet the goals of the office.

AIA Maryland and many of our colleagues across the US have acted to support communities in responding to disasters as we proactively consider and develop measures for preparedness. Disasters faced from forest fires, tornadoes, hurricanes, tropical storms and heavy rains - and the recent polar vortex that greatly affected communities and deeply impacted individuals lives, forces us to think and learn from these events and to assess how can we be better prepared and mitigate the impacts of disasters.

We support establishing a Maryland Office of Resilience. We believe that initiatives should proactively mitigate potential flood hazards and the state should be ready to react and respond appropriately with emergency and recovery efforts. We encourage State departments and agencies like Maryland Department of Emergency Management to work with organizations who can bring expertise to planning and code development when considering issues of flood mitigation and, organizations that can provide post disaster assistance.

The American Institute of Architects (AIA) actively participates in building code development and enforcement and permitting which impacts communities and structures that already exist as well as new construction. We encourage the Office of Resilience to work with organizations like the AIA to train members and share lessons from post disaster building assessments.

We are excited that we have recently signed an MOU with the Maryland Department of Emergency Management to respond and assist in disaster situations. We continue to grow our network of licensed architects who are trained to assist with post disaster building safety assessments and we continue to connect with other state chapters across the country to build knowledge and share lessons learned.

We are glad that Maryland will have a coordinating office of resilience like most coastal states along the Atlantic including New York, New Jersey, Virginia, North Carolina, Florida and Louisiana. These states share similar challenges. Extending our reach along the coast with a focused effort will improve our ability to learn from others and share what has worked for us.

We believe that incorporating building resilience in our state's planning will assist communities to assess how to lower risks and enable them to have a broad support network to assist should a disaster strike. We support Senate Bill 0630 and planning efforts that will enable us to continue to enjoy and take pride in 3,000 miles plus of shoreline and our many river, and stream valleys throughout the state.

Sincerely,



Laurence A. Frank, AIA

Director, Past President, AIA Maryland



Chris Parts, AIA

Director, Past President, AIA Maryland

cc: Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee:

Cheryl C. Kagan, Vice Chair

Mary Beth Carozza

Arthur Ellis

Jason Gallion

Kate Fry Hester

Clarence Lam

Obie Patterson

Edward R Reilly

Bryan W, Simonaire

Mary Washington

AIA Maryland Board of Directors

SB630 - Maryland Department of Emergency Management

Uploaded by: Dakota Matthews

Position: FAV



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Charlotte Davis, Executive Director

John Hartline, Chair

Testimony in Support of
Senate Bill 630 - Maryland Department of Emergency Management - Office of Resilience
Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
February 24, 2022

The Rural Maryland Council supports Senate Bill 630 - Maryland Department of Emergency Management - Office of Resilience. The bill will prepare Maryland for future emergencies, specifically those caused by climate change, by establishing the Office of Resilience in the Maryland Department of Emergency Management. The Office of Resilience will include members of key State entities and agencies, including the Maryland Agricultural Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation (MARBIDCO). As climate change causes increases in temperature, rising sea levels, and more flooding, the underserved areas of Maryland will be most at risk. The creation of the Office of Resilience will prepare Maryland's communities now for the emergencies they will face in the future.

Maryland needs to be prepared for the serious events that are already taking place and will worsen as time goes on. Those who live on the State's eastern shore will face loss of land, including homes and businesses; farmers will face more loss of crops due to the increased temperatures; and areas near bodies of water will face harsher and more regular flooding. The areas that will be hurt the most by these events will be the rural areas and other underserved areas of the State. The Office of Resilience will prioritize vulnerable communities and environmental justice, helping them prepare for and reduce the damages caused from certain events. Some of the Office's goals are eliminating flooding residential areas, building neighborhood resiliency, de-concentrating poverty, and designing coastal resilience.

The office will work with State agencies and entities to accomplish their goals. One of the state agencies will be MARBIDCO, which will assist in building climate resilience expertise through the Maryland extension to support best practices in agriculture. Increases in temperatures and drought will negatively impact agricultural production and ultimately cause disruptions in supply. These shortages will have multiple effects, such as increased prices to both everyday buyers and other farmers that rely on certain crops to feed livestock. A NASA study published in the journal *Nature Food* reports that climate change may decrease corn production by 24% near end of the century and that these affects could start as early as 2030. Developing plans to address such complications must start now before the long-term effects are felt by the citizens of Maryland.

For some, the word resiliency has meant the ability to withstand environmental shocks. For others, it means the ability to withstand financial shocks. But the pandemic has made it clear that a resilient community is one that can withstand whatever is thrown at it. A holistic approach is needed, one that includes development and identifies new opportunities. As a result, we will ensure that all Marylanders are prosperous with thriving resources, vibrant economies, and healthy connected communities.

The Rural Maryland Council respectfully requests your favorable support of Senate Bill 630.

The Rural Maryland Council (RMC) is an independent state agency governed by a nonpartisan, 40-member board that consists of inclusive representation from the federal, state, regional, county and municipal governments, as well as the for-profit and nonprofit sectors. We bring together federal, state, county and municipal government officials as well as representatives of the for-profit and nonprofit sectors to identify challenges unique to rural communities and to craft public policy, programmatic or regulatory solutions.

"A Collective Voice for Rural Maryland"

UMCES testimony CRO SB630 .pdf

Uploaded by: david nemazie

Position: FAV



SB630 Maryland Department of Emergency Management – Chief Resilience Officer

Education, Health and Environmental Committee:

Chair: Senator Paul Pinsky; Vice-Chair: Senator Cheryl Kagan

Testimony from:

Dave Nemazie: Chief of Staff, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science

Chair Pinsky and members of the Education, Health, and Environment Committee thank you for allowing me to provide this testimony on behalf of the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES).

Since its founding in 1925, UMCES has been leading the way toward better management of Maryland's natural resources and the protection and restoration of the Chesapeake Bay. It's often referred to as "the institution of the environment for the state of Maryland"

With more than 3,000 miles of shoreline and 72% of the state's population living and working along the coast, Maryland's coastal communities face particular risk to the impacts of a changing climate.

Since 1981, Maryland has experienced 66 'billion-dollar' weather related events resulting in an estimated \$10- 20 B in damages. NOAA tracks drought, flood, freeze, severe storm, tropical cyclone, wildfire, and winter storm events. Tropical storms were the cause of these billion dollar events, inflicting over 40% of the total damages. Droughts and severe storms were the second and third most costly weather events. In the period 1980-1989, the average was 0.7 events per year. This has increased by decade and 5 events were recorded in 2020. The increasing frequency of these extreme events are attributed to the changing climate. The rapid escalation of the frequency and severity of these events reinforce the urgent need for climate action for mitigation and adaptation.

This past January, UMCES released the first-of-its-kind Maryland Coastal Adaptation Report Card that gives a snapshot of the current adaptation status in Maryland's coastal counties and establishes a framework for measuring future progress.

Maryland is fairly well-adapted to handle continuing threats of climate change and earned an overall score of "B-." However, some indicators require significant investment to achieve adaptation goals. The most urgent challenge in the State is the location of critical facilities, largely in flood hazard areas, that must remain operational in emergencies.

This bill calls for the creation of a Chief Resilience Officer appointed by the Director of the Maryland Emergency Management Agency and is responsible for coordinating state and local efforts to build resilience to risks in the Hazard Mitigation Plan, particularly related to impacts related climate change.

If passed UMCES must coordinate with the office to: a) establish a baseline for the State and develop a statewide resilience assessment to support local government benchmarking for use in a statewide resilience tracker to help identify investment needs; b) develop indicators to monitor the effectiveness of resilience efforts and establish future goals; and c) produce an economic analysis and policy benchmark report and compare Maryland policies and efforts with those of other vulnerable states.

An unstable climate regime will impose new burdens on the state's planning and response capability, including a need for greater flexibility, greater interagency coordination; and greater ability to rapidly integrate new information and research findings. Therefore, the Chief Resilience Officer coordinating role and developing various reports and tools is important for the State of Maryland to begin planning for continued impacts due to climate change.

UMCES supports SB630 and seeks the Committee's favorable report.

SB0630-EHE_MACo_SUP.pdf

Uploaded by: Dominic Butchko

Position: FAV



Senate Bill 630

Maryland Department of Emergency Management - Office of Resilience

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Education, Health, and Environmental
Affairs Committee

Date: February 24, 2022

From: Kevin Kinnally and Dominic J. Butchko

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 630. This bill would establish the Office of Resilience in the Maryland Department of Emergency Management.

Emergency management is a year-round process, a constant loop of preparation, training, testing, and revision that strengthens community preparedness and resilience. A strong partnership among state and local agencies is vital to emergency preparedness and response.

The Office of Resilience would be in a strong position to work directly with county emergency management offices to develop scalable, flexible, and adaptable concepts and to better align key roles and responsibilities when disasters strike. This partnership will ensure the continuity of government in the face of an innumerable number of catastrophic events.

SB 630 would task the Office of Resilience with (1) administering Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) mitigation grant programs and recovery-focused programs; (2) in coordination with the Maryland Department of the Environment, administering the National Flood Insurance Program; (3) administering State mitigation grants; and (4) developing flood risk assessment tools for statewide programs and projects.

The Office of Resilience would provide valuable assistance, guidance, and leadership to its local partners. By aligning these efforts, SB 630 would strengthen and streamline collaboration, communication, and coordination between the State and county governments in times of crisis. Accordingly, MACo urges a **FAVORABLE** report for SB 630.

SB630_FAV_MD Food System Resiliency Council.pdf

Uploaded by: Heather Bruskin

Position: FAV

February 22, 2022

**2022 SESSION SUPPORT TESTIMONY
S.B. 630 Establishing Office of Resilience**

BILL: SB630: Health – Maryland Department of Emergency Management - Office of Resilience.

COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

POSITION: Testimony in support of Senate Bill 630

Honorable Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to submit this statement for the record in support of S.B. 630. This letter is submitted by Anne Palmer, a food systems researcher at the Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future and member of the Maryland Food System Resiliency Council (MD FSRC), and Heather Bruskin, Executive Director of the Montgomery County Food Council (MCFC), Co-Chair of the MD FSRC. These comments are submitted on behalf of the Council and do not necessarily represent the views of Johns Hopkins University, MCFC, or the State of Maryland.

The Maryland General Assembly established the Maryland FSRC during the 2021 legislative session bringing together 33 experts from across the state to work toward a more resilient food system and address the food insecurity crisis due to COVID-19. In the Council's report to the legislature submitted on November 1, 2021, we recommended that the Office of Resilience be established and fully funded.

S.B. 630 would benefit Maryland's ongoing efforts to mitigate the next crisis by establishing an Office of Resilience. It requires the Director of the Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM) to appoint a Chief Resilience Officer to direct the Office of Resilience, which in turn coordinates the state's efforts to ensure measures are in place to address future disruptions, as identified in the Maryland Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Notably, S.B. 630 also specifies that several state agencies will be required to identify a liaison to participate in the planning. We see this as a critical step to ensure that the state's response to the next crisis is coordinated across agencies. Breaking down the siloes of food-based issues into social services, economy, and environmental sustainability in order to pursue systems-based strategies that go beyond meeting immediate critical needs, and focus on addressing the root causes of issues and inequities, is critical to build resilience for the long-term. We also recommend that non-governmental organizations, such as food policy councils, and community-based groups be officially integrated into the Office of Resilience's work, both local and state.

Equity is also a vital part of creating resilient communities. We witnessed the pandemic's disproportionate effect on lower-income and communities of color. As the MD FSRC report

noted, addressing inequities “will take time and thoughtful dialogue with stakeholders to identify concrete, sustainable” actions. Given the cross-sectoral nature of resilience, the Office of Resilience will be an important resource in the state to advance equity efforts and we urge the office to ensure it remains a top priority.

Like every other State in the nation, Maryland reacted to, rather than planned for, the COVID-19 pandemic. We can take what we have learned these past two years and create a space to design, plan, and implement actions needed to make Maryland and **all** its residents more resilient to any disruption, both human-caused and natural disasters.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our support of S.B. 630.



Associate Scientist, Health, Behavior, and Society
Bloomberg School of Public Health
Director of Practice
Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future



Heather Bruskin
Co-Chair, Maryland Food System Resiliency Council

Mayor Day SB 630 FAV Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Jacob Day

Position: FAV



City of
Salisbury
Jacob R. Day, Mayor

24 February 2022

Committee: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Testimony on: SB 630 – Maryland Department of Emergency Management - Office of Resilience

Position: Favorable

Dear Members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee,

As you consider the merits of **SB 630**, I ask that you **support** this vital legislation and vote to give **SB 630** a **Favorable** Committee report.

The City of Salisbury supports SB 630, which will establish the Office of Resilience within the Maryland Department of Emergency Management. This bill is important as it calls for the appointment of a Chief Resilience Officer who will coordinate efforts with state agencies and stakeholders to build resilience to risks identified in the Maryland Hazard Mitigation Plan.

The Office of Resilience established through SB 630 will:

- Coordinate and administer federal prevention, protection, and mitigation programs
- Help to facilitate state support following emergencies
- Develop flood risk assessment tools

As the Capital of the Eastern Shore, residents of our city have first-hand experience in contending with the effects of climate change. Whether faced with soil erosion in our tidal areas or the heavy flooding that has become synonymous with major storms, although we remain versatile, we must take meaningful action as we respond to environmental hazards, including that of nuisance flooding that negatively impacts Marylanders across the Eastern Shore. By establishing an Office of Resilience, cities like Salisbury will benefit from improved interagency coordination as we work to combat the effects of chronic flooding while bolstering our preparedness for emergency situations.

This legislation, if enacted, would foster a culture of environmental responsibility as we embrace a statewide approach to promoting resilience within emergency preparedness efforts. By proactively preparing for and helping to reduce the potential impact of hazards identified in the Maryland Hazard Mitigation Plan, this bill will allow us to take meaningful action as we seek to eliminate flooding in residential areas and turn the tides of climate change while protecting our environment.

I ask for your **support** of this critical climate resilience legislation.

Respectfully,

Jacob R. Day
Mayor

SB 630_CBF SUPPORT.pdf

Uploaded by: Joshua Kurtz

Position: FAV



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education

Senate Bill 630

Maryland Department of Emergency Management – Office of Resilience

Date: February 24, 2022

To: Education, Health and Environmental Affairs

Position: **Support**

From: Josh Kurtz, MD Executive Director

Chesapeake Bay Foundation **SUPPORTS** SB 630 as elevating the need for coordinated resilience planning efforts throughout Maryland in the face of climate change and establishing specific roles and responsibilities for how the office works with specific state agencies, local governments and businesses.

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

This bill establishes the Office of Resilience within the Maryland Department of Emergency Management to coordinate State and local efforts to build resilience to risks identified in the Maryland Hazard Mitigation Plan, develop risk assessment tools, facilitate grants for resilience and prioritizing equity in resilience efforts.

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.¹

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 and private 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 an Office of Resilience and requiring the coordination of several available federal, state and private revenue streams. Building resilience will demand resources beyond the State's budget for assessment tools and projects to protect vulnerable communities in the face of rising seas levels and stronger, more frequent storm events.

CBF urges the Committee's FAVORABLE report on SB 630. For more information, contact Robin Jessica Clark, Maryland Staff Attorney at rclark@cbf.org or 443.995.8753.

¹ How Climate Change Impacts the Chesapeake Bay, [Climate Change](#), Chesapeake Bay Foundation, last visited 2.12.2021.

SB 630 _FAV_MML.pdf

Uploaded by: Justin Fiore

Position: FAV



Maryland Municipal League
The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns

TESTIMONY

February 24, 2022

Committee: Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee

Bill: SB 630 – Maryland Department of Emergency Management – Office of Resilience

Position: Support

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League supports SB 630, which would establish the Office of Resilience and task it with coordinating with various agencies, workgroups, and local governments to build resilience in the State.

Cities and towns across the state are consistently on the search for information and resources to increase the resilience of their jurisdiction. For the second straight year, combatting climate change has been one of the League's strategic initiatives. Resiliency plays a key role, and we are delighted to see SB 630 lay out a strong framework for local support through technical assistance & guidance, Maryland grants, outside grant assistance, and overall coordination. Our members stand ready to partner with the State and look forward to coordinating with the Office of Resilience.

The League therefore respectfully requests that this committee provide SB 630 with a favorable report.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Scott A. Hancock	Executive Director
Angelica Bailey	Director, Government Relations
Bill Jorch	Director, Research and Policy Analysis
Justin Fiore	Manager, Government Relations

1212 West Street, Annapolis, Maryland 21401

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SB630 Resilience Office EHEA_CJW_fav.pdf

Uploaded by: Laurie McGilvray

Position: FAV



Committee: Education, Health and Environmental Affairs
Testimony on: SB630 - Maryland Department of Emergency Management - Office of Resilience
Organization: Climate Justice Wing of the Maryland Legislative Coalition
Submitting: Laurie McGilvray, Co-Chair
Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: February 24, 2022

Dear Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing our testimony today in support of SB630. The Maryland Legislative Coalition (MLC) Climate Justice Wing, a statewide coalition of over 50 grassroots and professional organizations, urges you to vote favorably on SB630.

SB630 will establish an Office of Resilience in the Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM). The Office will be led by a Chief Resilience Officer who will be responsible for coordinating State and local efforts to build resilience to risks identified in the Maryland Hazard Mitigation Plan. Creating this new office will improve Maryland's risk response by fostering a more proactive, comprehensive, and coordinated approach to mitigating and limiting natural disaster and climate change impacts.

As recently reported in the [Washington Post](#) (January 31, 2022), researchers at the University of Bristol, England used data from flood insurance claims, building records, the census, and other sources to forecast how global warming will affect flooding across the United States. They found that losses due to flooding will jump more than 26 percent over the next three decades, and that disadvantaged communities will bear a greater share of the economic burden. The study showed that some Maryland counties, especially those bordering the Chesapeake Bay, are predicted to experience the highest levels of increased flood risk. Maryland is no stranger to increased flooding exacerbated by climate change, as seen in numerous flooding events over the last few years.

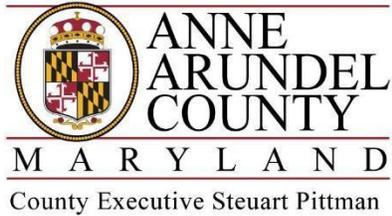
While the State has many programs across numerous agencies that improve resilience, increased coordination is needed between each of these programs and local government. Creating an Office of Resilience within MDEM will strongly incorporate emergency management perspectives within those projects and programs.

SB630 will help Maryland become more resilient and better coordinated across state and local government. We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.

AACounty_FAV_SB0630.pdf

Uploaded by: Matt Johnston

Position: FAV



February 24, 2022

Senate Bill 630

**Maryland Department of Emergency Management – Office of Resilience
Committee: Education, Health and Environmental Affairs**

Position: FAVORABLE

Anne Arundel County strongly **supports SB 630**.

Anne Arundel County, like many localities around the state, is experiencing more frequent and severe impacts from climate change. During a single week in July of 2018, Baltimore Washington International Airport recorded three rainfall events that exceeded the state's stormwater standards, overwhelming stormwater infrastructure and flooding neighborhoods. This past October, the county's 530 miles of coastline along the Chesapeake Bay were inundated by a high-tide flood event that raised water levels in the Bay between 3 and 5 feet above normal, closing roadways, damaging shoreline structures and homes and leaving some neighborhoods stranded. And in September of last year, businesses, schools and homes in the county and City of Annapolis were struck by a powerful tornado. None of this was considered normal, and yet these stories keep coming from all corners of the state.

We can build communities that are resilient to these changes if we first build strong institutions that can coordinate and finance our resiliency efforts. In Anne Arundel County, we've chosen to create a Resilience Authority to coordinate and finance our local resiliency efforts. With this bill, our Resilience Authority will now have a well-organized and funded state partner in this work.

A Chief Resilience Officer within the Maryland Department of Emergency Management will be able to coordinate resilience efforts across state and local agencies, leverage and focus funding and technical resources on resilience solutions, and develop concrete goals to guide a statewide resilience strategy.

For these reasons, Anne Arundel County urges a **FAVORABLE** vote on SB 630.

CEBall_SB630_Support_MDEM Office of Resilience_Fin

Uploaded by: Meghan Lynch

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
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February 24, 2022

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

Re: Testimony **IN SUPPORT** of SB630: Maryland Department of Emergency Management – Office of Resilience

Dear Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan and Members of the Committee,

While the impacts of our changing climate can be felt across the nation 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 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. I remain committed to keeping Howard County prepared to respond to natural disasters and unforeseen challenges. Our Ellicott City Safe and Sound plan will make our town safer and more resilient for future generations as we continue to implement robust emergency response and recovery policies.

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

I want to commend Senator Hester for introducing this legislation which would create an Office of Resilience within the newly established Maryland Department of Emergency Management *and* establish a position to oversee its efforts. The Chief Resilience Officer would coordinate efforts of state and local agencies 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.

Senate Bill 630 will provide a valuable state-level, coordinating response 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 630.

Sincerely,

Calvin Ball
Howard County Executive

SB 630 MD Department of Emergency Management - Off

Uploaded by: Michelle Dietz

Position: FAV

Thursday, February 24, 2022

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

FROM: Michelle Dietz, The Nature Conservancy, Director of Government Relation; and Caitlin Kerr, The Nature Conservancy, Conservation & Climate Policy Analyst

POSITION: Support SB 630 Maryland Department of Emergency Management – Office of Resilience

The Nature Conservancy strongly supports SB 630 offered by Senator Hester. SB 630 seeks to establish an Office of Resilience and a Chief Resilience Officer position to direct the newly formed Office under the Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM) with the intent of increasing the department's capacity to take a proactive approach to disaster mitigation and resilience. This new Office and position will be responsible for guiding resilience initiatives across Maryland by working closely with state agencies and local governments. This office will also be responsible for identifying and securing funding streams for these resilience efforts. At the federal level, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is improving funding streams for proactive pre-disaster mitigation. This new position would allow our state and local governments to capitalize on these significant changes at FEMA by taking advantage of new funding opportunities aimed at pre-disaster mitigation.

Establishing an Office of Resilience and appointing 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. These state and local governments 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. This legislation will allow Maryland to access the same benefits for our agencies, local governments, and vulnerable economic sectors.

We are already experiencing climate change impacts across Maryland, which will only increase in frequency and severity in the coming years. The most significant threats 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 are now experiencing nuisance flooding on a far more regular basis, resulting in damaged infrastructure and disruption to emergency services. This legislation pursues a solution to this issue by pairing the new Office with the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) to advance initiatives such as nature-based solutions in roadway upgrades, redesign, and removal projects that will reduce flooding and improve habitat health and connectivity.

Maryland has already observed one foot of sea level rise since the turn of the 20th 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. 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 4th largest

county by land area to the 14th by 2100, and saltwater intrusion is already damaging crop yields. Coastal flooding currently threatens 81,000 Marylanders 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 way of life. The Office of Resilience will work to address this by partnering with the Department of Housing and Community Development to assess development patterns in sea level rise hazard zones in order to inform planning and zoning decisions with reduced risk.

Increasing temperatures 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 than 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. Under this legislation, the new office will work with the Department of Housing and Community Development to ensure that communities most impacted by increasing heat have access to air conditioning. The legislation also prioritizes investing in frontline communities and promoting environmental justice in climate and hazard mitigation.

While reducing emissions is absolutely crucial to avoid the worst climate impacts, we know that our communities are already being harmed and, due to committed warming, will still face these growing challenges for years to come. Mitigation and adaptation must go hand in hand in order to best protect current and future generations from a daunting climate legacy. 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.

Situating the new Office and position within MDEM will allow for improved responses, reduced risk, and a pathway for a more proactive and comprehensive approach to alleviating 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; creating this position in MDEM will expand upon that work and investment by better incorporating emergency management perspectives within those projects and programs. This position will work directly with liaisons at state agencies to 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, insufficiently resourced, and most threatened communities.

One example of this approach is funding opportunities through the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program. BRIC funds are awarded through competitive grants and aim to fund large, ambitious projects that address multiple issues. By creating the Office of Resilience in MDEM and appointing a Chief Resilience Officer, we will improve Maryland's ability to access these funds through capitalizing on existing communication and coordination pathways between MDEM and FEMA. Furthermore, in order to meet the flood risk assessment tools development goal, the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) will work with the Office of Resilience to update flood maps for current and projected precipitation levels. Using these updated maps and in conjunction with the latest scientific findings on sea level rise, state agencies, local governments, and the Office of Resilience can then work together to advance adaptation planning, including through designing corridors for marsh migration and strategizing for managed retreat in ways which protect habitat and wildlife functions as well as communities' needs. By working collaboratively and utilizing existing agency expertise, the Chief Resilience Officer will be able to direct investments to the areas of greatest need in Maryland.

Due to the overwhelming climate threats to our state, and the increasingly urgent need to move toward more proactive approaches for building resilience, TNC strongly supports creating an Office of Resilience and 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 funding. Greater capacity will allow state agencies to more readily identify and take advantage of 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 and Senators Watson, Jackson, Guzzone, Young, Beidle, Washington, Elfreth, Kelley, Klausmeier, West, King, Ellis, Hettleman, Smith, Kagan, Patterson, Kramer, Waldstreicher, Rosapepe, Hayes, Augustine, Feldman, and Carter for 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 630.

SB630 resiliency MDEHR support.pdf

Uploaded by: Nina Cardin

Position: FAV



Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

SB630 : Maryland Department of Emergency Management – Office of Resilience

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: February 24, 2022

Every social and political entity needs a central clearinghouse to help it manage crises. Without it, even the best of efforts and the best managers end up experiencing unnecessary duplication, inefficient deployment of services, too much of one thing and not enough of another, being in the wrong place, missing critical communications.

Maryland too needs a command center to help plan, coordinate, train for and execute resiliency plans when such moments demand. We have sadly experienced too many crises recently, from natural disasters (flooding, tornadoes, storms) to health disasters (COVID) to supply chain interruptions to social upheaval.

The time to plan and coordinate – across all sectors of government and with the partnership of the private sector – is now.

I urge you to support this common-sense, essential, potentially life-saving bill.

Nina Beth Cardin

Maryland Campaign for Environmental Human Rights

SB630_IndivisibleHoCoMD_FAV_PeterAlexander.pdf

Uploaded by: Peter Alexander

Position: FAV



SB-630 – Maryland Department of Emergency Management – Office of Resilience

Testimony before

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

February 24, 2022

Position: Favorable

Mr. Chair, Madame Vice Chair, and members of the committee, my name is Peter Alexander and I represent the 750+ members of Indivisible Howard County. IndivisibleHoCo is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members). We are providing written testimony today in support of SB630. We appreciate Senator Hester's leadership in sponsoring this legislation along with 23 of her Senate colleagues.

Environmental, technological, and manmade hazards present increasingly severe and frequent threats to Marylanders. The state must be prepared to address the implications of climate change, sea level rise, cyber-attacks, and more through a coordinated, multi-agency approach.

Recently published data from a number of sources forecasting flooding due to global climate change found that losses due to flooding in the United States will jump more than 26 percent over the next three decades, and that disadvantaged communities will bear a greater share of the economic burden. Some Maryland counties, especially those bordering the Chesapeake Bay, are predicted to experience the highest levels of increased flood risk. The disastrous and deadly effects of increased flooding exacerbated by climate change have been witnessed right here in Maryland in the last few years.

By establishing an Office of Resilience and Chief Resilience Officer (CRO) within the Maryland Dept. of Emergency Management, Maryland's risk response will become more proactive, comprehensive, and coordinated in mitigating and limiting natural disaster and climate change impacts.

SB-630 will establish mechanisms to:

- Coordinate state and local agencies engaged in building resilience to risks related to climate change, as identified in the Maryland Hazard Mitigation Plan;
- Leverage funding streams and technical resources at the Federal, State, and Local levels to support Maryland resilience efforts;
- Work 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;
- Work across agencies to establish baseline indicators, goals, and metrics to guide resilience efforts, and to produce an economic analysis of the state's resilience efforts,
- Engage with stakeholders in communities and industries affected by climate change, with a priority on vulnerable populations.

The bill also includes a requirement for the CRO to produce a report that would include an overview of the Office's annual performance and a strategy for the next 1, 2, 5, and 10 years. This legislation passed in the Senate 46-0 in 2020.

While the State has many programs across numerous agencies that improve resilience, increased coordination is needed between each of these programs and local government. Creating an Office of Resilience within MDEM will strongly incorporate emergency management perspectives within those projects and programs.

We respectfully urge a favorable report.

Peter Alexander
Woodbine, MD

ANCR Testimony on MD SB630.pdf

Uploaded by: Ryan Colker

Position: FAV

TESTIMONY TO
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
PROVIDED BY
ALLIANCE FOR NATIONAL & COMMUNITY RESILIENCE
IN SUPPORT OF SB630

Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 630 to establish an Office of Resilience and a state Chief Resilience Officer. We commend Senator Hester for her 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 2021 the Nation experienced 20 climate or weather disasters causing \$1 billion in losses or more—the second highest since tracking began in 1980, only 2 events less than in 2020. These events resulted in a total of \$145 billion in damages and 660 deaths. Since 1980 Maryland has been impacted by 66 such events.¹ These \$1 billion events do not account for the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and other disasters that impact communities but did not 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.²

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, shocks 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

¹ 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)

² 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.

businesses like Target and Dupont and resilience practitioners from New York City; Washington, DC; and Pinellas County, Florida.

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.

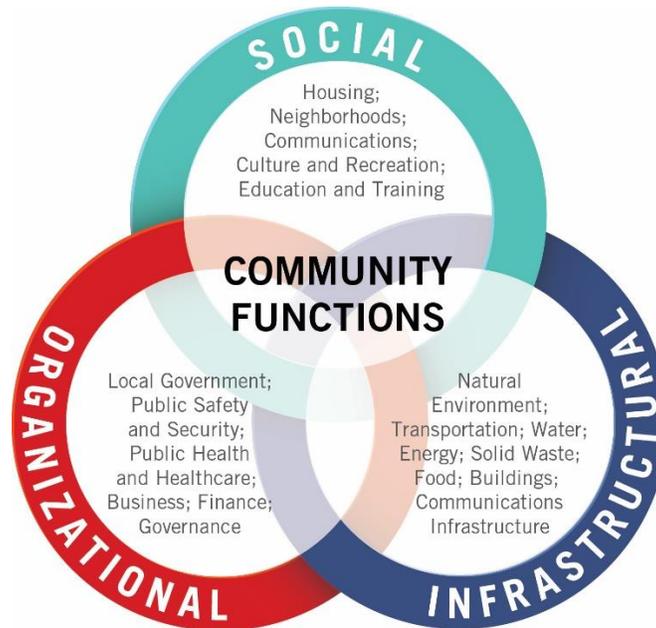


Figure 1. Community Functions Identified by ANCR

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*.³ 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).⁴ See Figure 2.

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

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Figure 2. Benefit Cost Ratio for Various Hazard Mitigation Measures

³ 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.

⁴ 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.

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 Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program within the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) sets aside 6 percent of disaster spending to support pre-disaster investments.⁵ BRIC funding for 2021 totaled \$1 billion. 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 planning provides.

Currently, at least 11 states have established state-wide chief resilience officers (Colorado, Florida, Louisiana, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wyoming). While they all face different hazards, the legislatures and governors recognized the importance of coordination in addressing resilience challenges. The Environmental Council of the States (ECOS), National Emergency Management Association (NEMA), and Environmental Defense Fund established a CRO Work Group to identify recommendations on the establishment and function of CROs.⁶ Key recommendations include:

- Legislation can provide permanency and continuity for CRO positions while also codifying the intention and outcomes the state expects
- With the CRO as the "hub" of state resilience efforts, each individual agency should have a point of contact who has the support of agency leadership and authority to work directly with the CRO
- Legislation can provide an important basis for appropriately resourcing CROs

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 &

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

⁶ Instituting Resilience: Recommendations for Governors and Legislators on Establishing and Supporting Chief Resilience Officers. ECOS, NEMA, EDF. <https://www.edf.org/sites/default/files/documents/InstitutingResilience-FINAL-Web.pdf>.

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, 202-569-5795).

LS22, SB630, CCAN Venable FAV testimony .pdf

Uploaded by: Victoria Venable

Position: FAV

SB0630 - Maryland Department of Emergency Management - Office of Resilience

Date: February 24, 2022

Committee: Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

Position: Favorable

Victoria Venable, Maryland Director - Chesapeake Climate Action Network Action Fund

On behalf of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network Action Fund, I urge a favorable report from the committee on **SB0630 - Maryland Department of Emergency Management - Office of Resilience**.

The CCAN Action Fund is the advocacy arm of Chesapeake Climate Action Network, a grassroots organization dedicated exclusively to fighting for bold and just solutions to climate change in the Chesapeake region of Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, DC. As we make efforts to mitigate climate change, we must also plan and prepare for the impacts of climate change that are no longer avoidable. With over 3,000 miles of tidal shoreline, Maryland is one of the [most climate-vulnerable states in America](#) – just from sea-level rise. To effectively prepare for the now inevitable impacts of climate change, our state should be investing in human capacity and state system infrastructure to build resilience, a goal at the core of SB0630.

SB0630 will establish an Office of Resilience in the Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM). The Office will be led by a Chief Resilience Officer who will be responsible for coordinating state and local efforts to build resilience to risks identified in the Maryland Hazard Mitigation Plan. Importantly, this office will be responsible for identifying and securing funding streams for resilience efforts, a role that is increasingly important as our federal partners invest more in resiliency.

According to the [Center for Climate and Energy Solutions](#), state-level resilience planning can focus state agencies on climate risks and preparedness and can promote collaboration across regions and between the public and private sectors. This is evident in the structure of the bill, which directs the Office of Resilience to coordinate with Departments of Environment, Labor, Housing and Community Development, Transportation, and more. This will be a key role for the Office of Resilience - guiding the coordination between the many state departments that will be impacted by climate change and other threats. Building resilience can also better prepare our state for non-climate hazards such as national security threats and health crises.

Another important provision in the bill is the requirement that the Office of Resilience and the Chief Officer prioritize vulnerable communities and environmental justice. This will be a crucial part of ensuring that our effort to build resilience does not leave communities behind or

exacerbate existing burdens. There is ample research highlighting how efforts to build resilience can compound issues like housing affordability, health equity, and climate adaptation if equity is not carefully considered.

Prior to working at Chesapeake Climate Action Network, I did my Masters's work in Public Policy at Oregon State University, where I focused on the social equity considerations of climate resiliency planning. My research showed that when cities take on resiliency projects without effectively including a justice and equity lens in their planning the resilience gap between demographic groups often widens. In fact, census tracts in cities that did not include strong diversity, equity, and inclusion principles in their resilience planning of newly implemented flood risk reduction projects experienced increases in gentrification and housing burden, leading to significant barriers to resiliency.

Maryland cities have already seen the harsh impacts of climate change in flooding, heat advisories, and extreme weather events, including [two "1000-year floods" to Ellicott City in just 22 months](#). Notably, the [lowest-lying neighborhoods](#) of Baltimore and Annapolis, which are disproportionately communities of color, are [regularly experiencing flooding](#) due to sea-level rise and increased precipitation. Building climate resilience in our urban areas is critically important and we must center the most vulnerable communities in this work.

Thank you for your consideration of SB0630. For all the reasons stated above, we urge a favorable vote from the committee.



CONTACT: Victoria Venable, Maryland Director
Victoria@chesapeakeclimate.org (301) 960-8824

MCEC T 2022 SB0630.pdf

Uploaded by: Katherine Magruder

Position: FWA



I. Katherine Magruder
Executive Director
ikm@mdcleanenergy.org
301-314-6061

Maryland Clean Energy Center (MCEC) was created as a not-for-profit corporate instrumentality of state in 2008 through an act of the Maryland General Assembly.

MCEC focuses on an economic development mission to advance the adoption of clean energy and energy efficiency products, services and technologies along with the associated jobs and wages for Maryland. MCEC leverages private capital and private sector capabilities; facilitates the commercialization of innovative advanced energy technologies; strives to reduce energy costs for consumers, and drive reductions in greenhouse gas emissions associated with the use of fossil fuels.

Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee 02.24.22 1 PM

SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT

MCEC applauds the intention of this legislation, delineating a strategy for Maryland to develop and execute an action to plan for the state to be resilient in the face of possible future impacts of climate change.

As drafted, HB 706/SB 630 directs Maryland Clean Energy Center (MCEC) to coordinate with the proposed Office of Resilience and be engaged in this work for two purposes aligned with its mission. MCEC already “promotes the use of electric heat, electric heat pumps, and (efficient) electric appliances to reduce the use of gas and other fossil fuels” as detailed in section 14-1204 B.5.II.

However, MCEC has concerns about the personnel and fiscal resources to address section 14-1204 B.5.I, which directs coordination with the center to “update and draft building codes to withstand flooding.” This work would require certain engineering expertise which MCEC does not have on staff, and may be redundant to the work being done by the Maryland Green Building Council. Without appropriate fiscal resources dedicated to achieve the desired outcome, MCEC would not be able to accomplish this directive.

Additionally, one of the core competencies of MCEC related to resilience is not called out in the coordination directives. MCEC focuses resources on sourcing capital for energy projects and infrastructure deployment and could provide expertise to assist in that regard. With appropriate funds made available, MCEC is also statutorily enabled to provide third party P3 project planning, design and procurement technical support; which could be of value in the effort to implement strategies to ensure resilience for the state, municipalities and vulnerable communities.

MCEC suggests the bill language be amended to strike the current language in 14-1204 B.5.I, and replace it with language directing MCEC to coordinate “on sourcing capital, providing technical support and procurement services for energy project and infrastructure deployment” to better enable the Office of Resilience to achieve desired outcomes.

SB0630 (HB0706) - LOI - Maryland Department of Eme

Uploaded by: Landon Fahrig

Position: INFO



TO: Members, Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
FROM: Mary Beth Tung – Director, MEA
SUBJECT: SB 630 - Maryland Department of Emergency Management - Office of Resilience
DATE: February 24, 2022

MEA POSITION: Letter of Information

Senate Bill 630 requires a new Office of Resilience to coordinate strategies with several state entities. Unfortunately, the **assignments in the legislation do not align with the current functions of state agencies.**

14-1204(b)(5)(i) recruits the Maryland Clean Energy Center (MCEC) to update building codes. This is contrary to existing statute and not in keeping with the legislative mission of MCEC. **The Maryland Department of Labor is the appropriate agency to address building codes.**

During the 2018 session the Maryland General Assembly adopted House Bill 694. The law authorized the transfer of the Maryland Building Codes Administration to the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, effective July 1, 2018. To ensure that buildings meet the applicable standards for health and safety, Building Codes Administration fulfills the following mandates of Maryland statutes; the adoption of state building codes and Maryland Building Rehabilitation Code; the administration of Maryland Industrialized Building and Manufactured Homes Program, Maryland Accessibility Code, and Minimum Livability Code; and the provision of trainings on building codes for local government employees.

Additionally 14-1204(b)(5)(ii) recruits MCEC to address energy usage, including use in appliances. Existing law in SG § 9-2003(9) clearly puts this in the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) portfolio, requiring MEA to “coordinate and direct integrated energy planning for State agencies and the public that recognizes the benefits and costs of energy conservation and improved efficiency.” Additionally, **appliance efficiency is specifically under MEA’s umbrella** in the Maryland Efficiency Standards Act (SG § 9-2006). Expanding MCEC’s role beyond their legislative directive will diminish the effectiveness of their program and duplicate efforts of other existing agencies.

MEA asks the committee to consider this information when rendering its report.

Letter of Information - MDEM - SB630.pdf

Uploaded by: Russell Strickland

Position: INFO



Larry Hogan | Governor

Boyd K. Rutherford | Lt. Governor

Russell J. Strickland | Acting Secretary

Letter of Information
SB0630 - Maryland Department of Emergency Management - Office of Resilience

Secretary Russell J. Strickland
Maryland Department of Emergency Management
Committee: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
Hearing Date: 24 February 2022

Chairman Paul Pinsky
Environment and Transportation Committee
2 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 20401

Chairman Pinsky,

I write to share information on **Senate Bill 0630**, which will establish the Office of Resilience and a Chief Resilience Officer within the Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM). If this bill passes, Maryland will join a growing list of states who have appointed a Chief Resilience Officer or established an Office of Resilience, including our mid-Atlantic neighbors Virginia, the District of Columbia, and New Jersey, as well as the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Senate Bill 0630 builds on the work being done today to build a more resilient Maryland. This bill identifies MDEM as the coordinating entity for resilience efforts across State government, a role we currently have for disaster risk reduction, preparedness, response, and recovery for all hazards facing the state. Resilience is truly the culmination and connection of those activities across not just State government, but the whole community: residents, businesses, non-profits, academia, and governments at all levels. Resilience, as reflected in this bill, is the whole community working together to minimize risk, decrease impacts, and speed up recovery for our State.



Larry Hogan | Governor
Boyd K. Rutherford | Lt. Governor
Russell J. Strickland | Acting Secretary

This bill will establish an Office of Resilience and a Chief Resilience Officer as the central point for coordination of resilience activities across the State government. This will provide a connected forum for the work currently being done by several key State agencies, working groups, councils, and other entities important to cohesive resilience strategy and policymaking. The bill also requires extensive outreach and technical assistance for communities and local government partners, and the prioritization of vulnerable and overburdened communities in Maryland. This aligns with prioritization by the Federal government for critical grant funding opportunities, particularly related to disaster risk reduction. Finally, the synergy required between the State Hazard Mitigation Plan and hazard mitigation process is an important step to prioritizing risk reduction of Maryland's greatest hazards.

As the fiscal note indicates, there are substantial staffing and support costs required to attain the goals and requirements of this ambitious bill. While MDEM is currently supporting resilience work, this bill outlines a number of expanded roles and requirements for MDEM, and appropriate resources are critical to the State's success in achieving the goals and objectives outlined by **SB0630**. We cannot fulfill the requirements in this bill with existing resources.

I appreciate the opportunity to share information regarding this bill. We would be happy to provide you additional information if desired. Please feel free to reach out by email or phone to me, or to MDEM's legislative liaison, Anna Sierra (anna.sierra1@maryland.gov), at any time.

Sincerely,

Russell J. Strickland
Acting Secretary
Maryland Department of Emergency Management

SB 630 LOI.pdf

Uploaded by: Tyler Abbott

Position: INFO



February 24, 2022

The Honorable Paul Pinsky, Chair
Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, Suite 2W
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Senate Bill 630 – Maryland Department of Emergency Management – Office of Resilience

Dear Chair Pinsky and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE or the Department) has reviewed SB 630, *Maryland Department of Emergency Management - Office of Resilience*, and would like to provide some information about this legislation.

SB 630 would establish an Office of Resilience in the Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM) and create a new position, Chief Resilience Officer (CRO). The CRO is responsible for coordinating local and state efforts to build resilience to risks identified in Maryland's Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP). The CRO's duties include developing a state resilience strategy; assisting local and state agencies in implementing resilience action; and securing private, state, and federal technical and funding assistance. SB 630 requires 10 state agencies, including MDE, to appoint a liaison to the Office of Resilience. In addition, MDE, specifically, must coordinate with the Office of Resilience to update flood maps for new precipitation levels, share the latest scientific findings on risks of sea level rise, and advance investment and adaptation planning.

Flooding hazards can occur from unmanaged stormwater runoff, inadequate stormwater systems, operation or failure of dams, sea level rise, and activity in local and Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) designated floodplains. MDE plays a major role in reducing risks to public safety and property damage from flooding in Maryland through regulation, policy development, design standards, permits, inspections, and emergency response. Specifically, MDE ensures that stormwater runoff is managed, dams are maintained, impacts to floodplains are minimized, and assists local communities in managing their floodplains so that they are eligible for federal flood insurance and disaster relief.

Maryland's HMP includes mitigating risks associated with flooding and dam failure emergencies. While MDEM coordinates development of the HMP and distributes funding from FEMA for projects related to hazard mitigation, many of the mitigation actions are decentralized among various state and local agencies with no defined structure of authority or relationships. In some cases, one program's requirements conflict with another. Coordination and integration among these programs requires oversight, communication, cooperation, and action at multiple levels of government and through public/private partnerships.

Thank you for considering the Department's information regarding this legislation. We will continue to monitor SB 630 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 tyler.abbott@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tyler Abbott", with a long horizontal line extending to the left.

Tyler Abbott

cc: The Honorable Katie Fry Hester
Lee Currey, Director, Water and Science Administration