



Wes Moore | Governor
Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor
Russell J. Strickland | Secretary

Letter of Information - HB0478
Waterway Incident Notification System (WINS) Workgroup

Maryland Department of Emergency Management
Environment and Transportation Committee
Hearing Date: 17 FEB 2023

Chairman Kumar Barve
Environment and Transportation Committee
Room 251
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 20401

Chairman Barve,

The Maryland Department of Emergency Management writes today to share information on HB0478 - Waterway Incident Notification System (WINS) Workgroup.

Studying the feasibility of a waterway incident notification system will be a complex effort, inclusive of various federal and state regulations, jurisdictional considerations, response considerations, and technology considerations. There are a number of entities with roles, responsibilities, and authorities related to dispatch and response to waterway incidents, and safety and liability considerations to be cognizant of when alerting the general public to an ongoing rescue effort.

MDEM respectfully requests the Committee consider extending the timeframe of this workgroup to December 2024, as the complexity of such an undertaking in a short period of time may not lead to adequately informed recommendations. MDEM would also like to note that, based on past experience staffing several similar workgroups, the Department does not currently have the resources available required to support this effort.

MDEM appreciates the opportunity to share this information with the Committee on HB0478. If you have any questions, please contact Anna Sierra, MDEM legislative liaison: anna.sierra1@maryland.gov.