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FAVORABLE - HB 865
Catastrophic Event Account - Transfer of Funds - State Disaster Recovery Fund
Appropriations Committee
Hearing Date: 20 February, 2025

The Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM) writes today in support of **HB 865 - Catastrophic Event Account - Transfer of Funds - State Disaster Recovery Fund.**

HB 865 would shorten the time for the Legislative Policy Committee to review and make comments on transfers of the funding from the Catastrophic Event Account (CEA) to the State Disaster Recovery Fund (SDRF). It also clarifies that the State Disaster Recovery Fund may accept funds from the Catastrophic Event Account.

Maryland is no stranger to emergencies and disasters which impact communities. While many of these can and are managed at the local level without any State support, some responses and impacts overwhelm local capabilities and require State assistance. The State Disaster Recovery Fund is designed to quickly and effectively assist local jurisdictions in providing disaster relief in the absence of federal funding aid. Increasing the speed with which the Department can provide funding to local jurisdictions will enhance the State's ability to meet local needs following a disaster.

In conclusion, the Maryland Department of Emergency Management respectfully requests a favorable report on **HB 865**. If you have any questions, please contact Anna Sierra, MDEM legislative liaison: anna.sierra1@maryland.gov.