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

**FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS**  
**SB 790 - Public Health Reform Act**  
Finance Committee

Maryland Department of Emergency Management  
Hearing Date: 10 MAR 2026

The Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM) writes **in favor with amendment** on SB 790 - Public Health Reform Act.

SB 790 would codify the Maryland Medical Reserve Corps with the purpose of providing a statewide volunteer network for use in crises which strain the health care system or public health system, including public health emergencies, disease outbreaks, and natural disasters.

The Department of Emergency Management has the primary responsibility and authority for developing emergency management policies and is responsible for coordinating disaster risk reduction, consequence management, and disaster recovery activities for all hazards, including public health emergencies. We support the codification of the Maryland Medical Reserve Corps as it is an important organizing mechanism of volunteers with specific emphasis on healthcare settings.

The Department also agrees that a coordinated approach to volunteer management, particularly in times of multi-jurisdictional impacts. The Department, in coordination with the Department of Health, offers a minor amendment to clarify that procedures related to the use of the system are aligned and consistent with the State's overall approach to consequence management operations. Our aim is to ensure that the Maryland Medical Reserve Corps remains an effective, coordinated system that is embedded with both local and State consequence management policies and operations. MDEM's amendment proposal is included in Attachment A.

In conclusion, MDEM urges a favorable report inclusive of our amendment for **SB 790 - Public Health Reform Act**. If you have any questions, please contact Anna Sierra, MDEM legislative liaison: [anna.sierra1@maryland.gov](mailto:anna.sierra1@maryland.gov).

## Attachment A: Proposed Language, Amended

Page 3

27 SUBTITLE 11. MARYLAND MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS.

29 2-1101.

30 IN THIS SUBTITLE, "CORPS" MEANS THE MARYLAND MEDICAL RESERVE

31 CORPS.

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1 2-1102.

2 (A) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ORGANIZE THE MARYLAND MEDICAL

3 RESERVE CORPS.

4 (B) THE PURPOSE OF THE CORPS IS TO PROVIDE A STATEWIDE VOLUNTEER

5 NETWORK INTEGRATED INTO COMMUNITY EMERGENCY SYSTEMS TO FACILITATE A

6 COORDINATED APPROACH TO VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT.

7 (C) THE CORPS SHALL INCLUDE CLINICAL AND NONCLINICAL PERSONNEL

8 CAPABLE OF ASSISTING DURING CRISES THAT STRAIN THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

9 OR PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM, INCLUDING PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES, DISEASE

10 OUTBREAKS, AND NATURAL DISASTERS.

11 2-1103.

12 THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

13 (1) MAINTAIN AN EFFICIENT AND MODERN ELECTRONIC

14 REGISTRATION SYSTEM TO REGISTER AND TRACK VOLUNTEERS FOR THE CORPS;

~~15 AND~~

16 (2) DESIGNATE A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY SURGE

17 COORDINATOR AMONG ITS STAFF TO COORDINATE AND PLAN IMPROVEMENTS TO

18 THE CORPS; AND

19 **(3) IN COORDINATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, ALIGN PROCEDURES FOR USE OF THE CORPS WHICH ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE STATE CONSEQUENCE MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS PLAN, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO STATE EMERGENCY RESOURCE REQUEST AND MANAGEMENT PROCESSES**