



TESTIMONY

SB0825 – Public Safety – Critical Infrastructure Protection

Bill Sponsors: Senator Hester

Committee: Government, Labor, and Elections

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Aileen Alex, Co-Chair

Position: **FAVORABLE**

I am submitting this testimony in support of SB0825 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. We are an association of unpaid citizen advocates—individuals and grassroots groups in every district across the state—representing and supporting more than 30,000 Marylanders.

At a time when federal efforts to protect critical infrastructure are inconsistent and subject to shifting priorities, Maryland cannot afford to just hope for national action. The measures contained in SB0825 help safeguard the systems Marylanders rely on every day— water and wastewater systems, transportation networks, telecommunications infrastructure, hospitals, emergency response facilities, and other essential public safety and communications systems.

SB0825 establishes a Critical Infrastructure Protection Branch within the Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center and directs the Maryland Department of Emergency Management to take defined actions whenever these systems are threatened or attacked.

The bill also requires the Department of Information Technology to provide clear cybersecurity reporting standards and Information Sharing and Analysis Center-type access for infrastructure owners and operators, strengthening statewide coordination, information sharing, and readiness against both physical and cyber threats.

This legislation aligns with the mission of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. Our work centers on transparency, accountability, and preventing harm. Strengthening critical-infrastructure protection directly supports those values by ensuring Marylanders can trust that the systems they depend on are secure and resilient.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge a **FAVORABLE** report on SB0825.