



## FAVORABLE

### SB 825 - Public Safety - Critical Infrastructure Protection

Government, Labor and Elections Committee

Maryland Department of Emergency Management

Hearing Date: 2 APR 2026

The Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM) writes **in favor** of SB 825 - Public Safety - Critical Infrastructure Protection.

SB 825 would establish the Critical Infrastructure Protection Branch in the Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center, require the Branch to identify threats to State's critical infrastructure and prioritize critical infrastructure protection. MDEM is required, in accordance with existing Title 14 roles and responsibilities, to coordinate the state's response to cascading impacts resulting from critical infrastructure disruption. The bill would also require the Department of Information Technology (DoIT) to allow critical infrastructure owners/operators to join the Maryland Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MD-ISAC) for the purpose of receiving cybersecurity reporting standards.

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 critical infrastructure incidents. The Department is responsible for coordinating state response and recovery for the consequences of events including critical infrastructure disruption.

MDEM works through the county emergency management office during a response in order to ensure streamlined and coordinated operations. When local governments need support, MDEM coordinates a whole-of-government approach through the well-established process outlined in our State emergency operations plan. State agencies are assigned leadership roles in their areas of expertise, which we refer to as State Coordinating Functions. This system effectively organizes state agencies in a preparedness, response, and recovery posture which aligns best with their statutory authorities. Through both risk reduction and consequence management, our aim is to shape a resilient Maryland where communities thrive. MDEM's role is to coordinate a whole-of-government approach before, during, and after emergencies, in support of local emergency management organizations.

MDEM understands the key role critical infrastructure plays in the State's overall resilience and continues to include cybersecurity as a likely scenario for planning, training, and exercises

supported by the Department. We support the establishment of the Critical Infrastructure Protection Branch within MCAC, as it plays an important function in maintaining a common operating picture in the State's overall resilience.

In conclusion, MDEM urges a favorable report for **SB 825 - Public Safety - Critical Infrastructure Protection**. If you have any questions, please contact Anna Sierra, MDEM legislative liaison: [anna.sierra1@maryland.gov](mailto:anna.sierra1@maryland.gov).