



House Bill 1239

Public Safety - Critical Infrastructure Protection

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Government, Labor, and Elections Committee

Date: March 3, 2026

From: Kevin Kinnally

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 1239 as a sensible step to bolster Maryland's coordination and readiness against threats to critical infrastructure.

This bill establishes a Critical Infrastructure Protection Branch within the Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center to strengthen threat identification, coordination, and response related to critical infrastructure. The bill formalizes a statewide structure to prioritize assets, assess vulnerabilities, coordinate across sectors, and improve information sharing on both cyber and physical threats.

Counties operate and maintain a significant share of Maryland's critical infrastructure. Local governments oversee water and wastewater systems, emergency communications, transportation assets, public buildings, IT networks, and public safety systems. Disruption to any of these systems has immediate and cascading impacts on residents and regional stability.

The bill improves coordination among state, local, federal, and private-sector partners and strengthens Maryland's ability to detect and respond to emerging threats. Furthermore, the bill appropriately situates this work within the Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center while directing collaboration with the Department of Emergency Management and the Department of Information Technology. A more integrated approach enhances preparedness and consequence management before and after an incident.

As threats grow more complex — particularly in cybersecurity and operational technology environments — Maryland benefits from a centralized structure that prioritizes risk assessment, vulnerability identification, and cross-sector communication.

For these reasons, MACo respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 1239.