



## HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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*Director*  
*Michael J. Hinson*

*County Executive*  
*Calvin Ball*

To: Howard County Council

From: Michael J. Hinson, Director, Office of Emergency Management

Date: March 23, 2022

Re: Legislation to amend references to the Maryland Emergency Management Assistance Compact and to remove the Compact from the Code and reference State Law.

The County Code provides certain authorities regarding emergency management, operations, and emergency powers. Currently, Section 17.109b and Section 17.110 make multiple references to the Maryland Emergency Management Assistance Compact, or MEMAC, and spells out the details of the Compact in its previous form.

Since October 2020, and as a result of a bipartisan bill signed into law in 2020 (see: Annotated Code of Maryland, Public Safety Article, § 14-801 and 14-802), Maryland now has the Maryland **Intrastate** Emergency Management Assistance Compact (MIEMAC). This compact allows counties and other jurisdictions to offer one another aid across a broad range of disciplines in response to natural disasters and other emergencies.

Prior to this bill, the State had the Maryland Emergency Management Assistance Compact that operated in much the same way as MIEMAC does now, however, Compact requests could only be fulfilled if the local jurisdiction declared a State of Emergency. MIEMAC allows this collaboration and resource requests fulfillment without the need for a State of Emergency to exist throughout Maryland, significantly reducing the time it takes to get assistance to Marylanders in need.

We are requesting that all references in County Code be updated to the new name and acronym to reflect the proper authorities that come with the changes to the compact. These sections in County Code are referenced in all Office of Emergency Management Plans as some of the guiding authorities, most namely in the Comprehensive Emergency Response and Recovery Plan, the County's Emergency Operations Plan and Disaster Recovery Plan, and the foundational document for all other emergency planning efforts in the County. This change is also required for our plans to be compliant with the Emergency Management Accreditation Program, which we will begin the accreditation process for in the coming months.

We are also requesting that the Maryland Emergency Management Compact, codified in the Code at Section 17.110 be removed, as it is now obsolete, and replaced with the correct State law reference.

There is no fiscal impact to this legislation.