

179. (Policy and Purpose.) (a) Because of the existing possibility of the occurrence of disasters of unprecedented size and destructiveness resulting from enemy attack, sabotage or other hostile action, or from fire, flood, earthquake, or other natural causes, and in order to insure that preparations of this State will be adequate to deal with such disasters, and generally to provide for the common defense and to protect the public peace, health, and safety, and to preserve the lives and property of the people of the State of Maryland, it is hereby found and declared to be necessary: (1) to create a Maryland Civil Defense Agency, and to authorize the creation of local organizations for civil defense in the political subdivisions of the State; (2) to confer upon the Governor and upon the executive heads or governing bodies of the political subdivisions of the State the emergency powers provided herein; and (3) to provide for the rendering of mutual aid among the political subdivisions of the State and with other States with respect to the carrying out of the civil defense functions.

(b) It is further declared to be the purpose of this sub-title and the policy of the State of Maryland that all civil defense functions of this State be coordinated to the maximum extent possible with the comparable functions of the Federal Government, other States and localities, and of private agencies of every type, to the end that the most effective preparation and use may be made of the resources and facilities available for dealing with any disaster that may occur.

180. (Definitions.) As used in this sub-title:

(a) "Civil Defense" shall mean the preparation for and the carrying out of all emergency functions other than functions for which military forces are primarily responsible, to minimize and repair injury and damage resulting from disasters caused by enemy attacks, sabotage or other hostile action, or by fire, flood, earthquake, or other natural causes.

(b) "Local Organization for Civil Defense" shall mean an organization created in accordance with the provisions of this sub-title by city, town, county, or other local authority as authorized by the Governor under the State plan.

(c) "Political Subdivision" shall mean any county, municipal corporation, town, village or district.

181. (State Civil Defense Agency.) (a) The Governor is hereby authorized and directed to create a Civil Defense Agency under the Adjutant General and upon the recommen-