

If, by reason of any military or warlike catastrophe, a majority of the members of any board of county commissioners OR COUNTY COUNCIL OR MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE CITY are killed, or are sick, incapacitated, missing, or otherwise unavailable for either a temporary or an indefinite period, the Governor may exercise any of the administrative and executive powers provided by law for that board of county commissioners OR THAT COUNTY COUNCIL, until such time as a number of county commissioners OR COUNCILMEN sufficient to operate the county government are appointed and qualify. The powers provided in this section exist and may be exercised only during the effective period of an official proclamation by the Governor, declaring a portion or all of the county to be within a civil defense emergency or disaster area, actual or threatened.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That new Sections 6A, 6B, 6C and 6D be and they are hereby added to Article 16A - Civil Defense, of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1973 Replacement Volume and 1974 Supplement) to read as follows:

Article 16A - Civil Defense

6A.

A STATE OF EMERGENCY SHALL BE DECLARED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER OR PROCLAMATION OF THE GOVERNOR IF HE FINDS THAT AN EMERGENCY HAS DEVELOPED OR IS IMPENDING FOR ANY CAUSE WHATSOEVER. THE STATE OF EMERGENCY SHALL CONTINUE UNTIL THE GOVERNOR FINDS THAT THE THREAT OR DANGER HAS PASSED OR THE EMERGENCY HAS BEEN DEALT WITH TO THE EXTENT THAT EMERGENCY CONDITIONS NO LONGER EXIST AND TERMINATES THE STATE OF EMERGENCY BY EXECUTIVE ORDER OR PROCLAMATION.

NO STATE OF EMERGENCY MAY CONTINUE FOR LONGER THAN 30 DAYS UNLESS RENEWED BY THE GOVERNOR. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY BY JOINT RESOLUTION MAY TERMINATE A STATE OF EMERGENCY AT ANY TIME. THEREUPON, THE GOVERNOR SHALL ISSUE AN EXECUTIVE ORDER OR PROCLAMATION ENDING THE STATE OF EMERGENCY. ALL EXECUTIVE ORDERS OR PROCLAMATIONS ISSUED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION SHALL INDICATE THE NATURE OF THE EMERGENCY, THE AREA OR AREAS THREATENED, AND THE CONDITIONS WHICH HAVE BROUGHT IT ABOUT OR WHICH MAKE POSSIBLE TERMINATION OF THE STATE OF EMERGENCY. AN EXECUTIVE ORDER OR PROCLAMATION SHALL BE DISSEMINATED PROMPTLY BY MEANS CALCULATED TO BRING ITS CONTENTS TO THE ATTENTION OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND, UNLESS THE CIRCUMSTANCES ATTENDANT UPON THE EMERGENCY PREVENT OR IMPEDE, PROMPTLY FILED WITH THE STATE CIVIL DEFENSE AND DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AGENCY, THE HALL OF RECORDS, AND THE LOCAL RECORDS-KEEPING AGENCY IN THE AREA TO WHICH IT