

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That section(s) of the Annotated Code of Maryland be repealed, amended, or enacted to read as follows:

Article 16A - STATE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND  
Civil Defense

[Maryland Civil Defense and Disaster Preparedness]  
STATE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CIVIL DEFENSE Act

1.

This subtitle may be cited as the [Maryland] STATE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND Civil Defense [and Disaster Preparedness] Act.

2.

(a) [Because of the existing possibility of the occurrence of disasters of unprecedented size and destructiveness, and in] IN order to insure that [preparations of this] THE State will be [adequate] ADEQUATELY PREPARED to deal with [such disasters] EMERGENCIES AND DISASTERS WHICH ARE BEYOND THE CAPABILITIES OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES, 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 and Disaster Preparedness] STATE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CIVIL DEFENSE Agency, and to authorize the creation of local organizations for [civil defense and disaster preparedness] EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND 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 and disaster preparedness] EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND--CIVIL-DEFENSE functions.

(b) It is further declared to be the purpose of this subtitle and the policy of the State of Maryland that all [civil defense and disaster related] EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND--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.

3.

As used in this subtitle: