

personnel policy and procedures of the county. State law currently sets forth the process for the hiring of a director of emergency management in each local political subdivision in the State. Upon the recommendation of the mayor, the executive or governing body of the respective political subdivision, the director of emergency management is appointed by the Governor.

As we have seen from the events of September 11th and the tornadoes that occurred in College Park and more recently in La Plata, it is essential to have a strong chain-of-command for emergency management response. An effective chain-of-command must begin with the uniform appointment of local directors of emergency management. Senate Bill 604 seeks to restrict the authority of the Governor and establish a bifurcated process for the appointment of local directors of emergency management. In light of recent events, it is not prudent to establish a bifurcated process for the hiring of local directors of emergency management, especially when the bifurcation is only directed at one political subdivision.

For the above reasons, I have vetoed Senate Bill 604.

Sincerely,  
Parris N. Glendening  
Governor

#### **Senate Bill No. 604**

AN ACT concerning

#### **Allegany County - Director of Emergency Management**

FOR the purpose of providing that the director of emergency management in Allegany County shall be an employee of Allegany County and not appointed by the Governor; and generally relating to the organization of local emergency management in Allegany County.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article 16A - Maryland Emergency Management Agency  
Section 7

Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2001 Replacement Volume)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

#### **Article 16A - Maryland Emergency Management Agency**

7.

(a) (1) Each political subdivision of this State shall establish a local organization for emergency management in accordance with the State emergency management plan and program and shall participate in federal programs for emergency management. [Each] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION, EACH local organization for emergency management shall have a director of