

# HOUSE BILL 1429

R1, P1

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By: **Delegates Stukes, Anderson, Conaway, Glenn, Harrison, Haynes, Heller, Howard, Kaiser, Kirk, Kramer, Miller, Norman, Olszewski, Proctor, Rice, Riley, Robinson, Rosenberg, Simmons, Tarrant, Valderrama, and Walker**

Introduced and read first time: February 24, 2010

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Commission on Responses to Serious Incidents of Inclement Weather**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Commission on Responses to Serious Incidents of  
4 Inclement Weather; providing for the membership and duties of the  
5 Commission; providing for the staffing of the Commission; requiring the  
6 Governor to appoint the chair of the Commission; prohibiting a member of the  
7 Commission from receiving certain compensation; authorizing a member of the  
8 Commission to receive reimbursement for certain expenses; requiring the  
9 Commission to report to the Governor and the General Assembly by certain  
10 dates; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the  
11 establishment of a Commission on Responses to Serious Incidents of Inclement  
12 Weather.

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
14 MARYLAND, That:

15 (a) There is a Commission on Responses to Serious Incidents of Inclement  
16 Weather.

17 (b) The Commission consists of the following members:

18 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President  
19 of the Senate;

20 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of  
21 the House;

22 (3) the Secretary of Transportation, or the Secretary's designee;

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



- 1           (4)    the State Highway Administrator, or the Administrator's designee;
- 2           (5)    the head of the transportation agency in:
- 3                (i)    Baltimore City; and
- 4                (ii)   each county in the State;
- 5           (6)    the Superintendent of the Maryland State Police, or the  
6 Superintendent's designee;
- 7           (7)    the Executive Director of the Maryland Emergency Management  
8 Agency, or the Executive Director's designee;
- 9           (8)    the State Superintendent of Schools, or the State Superintendent's  
10 designee;
- 11          (9)    a representative of the Office of the Attorney General, Consumer  
12 Protection Division, designated by the Attorney General; and
- 13          (10)  the following individuals, appointed by the Governor:
- 14                (i)    a representative involved in educating the public about  
15 meteorology;
- 16                (ii)   a representative of the broadcast and electronic media;
- 17                (iii)  a representative of the print media;
- 18                (iv)   a representative involved in public disaster emergency  
19 response;
- 20                (v)    a representative of a public utility company;
- 21                (vi)   a representative of an automobile safety association that  
22 conducts business in the State;
- 23                (vii)  a representative of a towing company that conducts business  
24 in the State;
- 25                (viii) a representative of the automobile insurance industry in the  
26 State;
- 27                (ix)   a representative of local law enforcement agencies in the  
28 State;

1 (x) a representative of a fire company or fire department in the  
2 State; and

3 (xi) two representatives of the public.

4 (c) The Governor shall appoint a chair of the Commission from its  
5 membership.

6 (d) The Secretary of Transportation shall provide staff support for the  
7 Commission from the Department of Transportation.

8 (e) A member of the Commission:

9 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Commission; but

10 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard  
11 State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

12 (f) The Commission shall:

13 (1) identify and develop the information that should be communicated  
14 to the public about steps the public should take to:

15 (i) prepare for the possibility of serious incidents of inclement  
16 weather; and

17 (ii) manage the effects of serious incidents of inclement weather  
18 once they occur; and

19 (2) identify improvements that could be made to State and local  
20 policies and procedures to address the impact of serious incidents of inclement  
21 weather, including:

22 (i) improving response times to accidents or other matters  
23 involving public safety;

24 (ii) reducing traffic delays that arise on account of serious  
25 accidents;

26 (iii) reducing the occurrence of secondary incidents that result  
27 from inclement weather or public response to inclement weather;

28 (iv) enhancing public safety generally during inclement weather;  
29 and

30 (v) engaging the public in taking steps during inclement  
31 weather that would assist others in the community and those engaged in restoring  
32 vital public services to a functional level.

1           (g) The Commission shall submit a report of its findings and  
2 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State  
3 Government Article, the General Assembly as follows:

4                   (1) an interim report on or before December 31, 2010; and

5                   (2) a final report on or before December 31, 2011.

6           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
7 June 1, 2010. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of May 31,  
8 2012, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be  
9 abrogated and of no further force and effect.