

HOUSE BILL 1276

E4

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By: **Delegate Henson**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2021

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Emergency Management Agency – Emergency Planning and**
3 **Management Cultural Competency – Study**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) to
5 study and make recommendations on best practices and model policies, including
6 those addressing emergency responder training, for the culturally sensitive inclusion
7 of minority communities in State and local emergency plans and management;
8 requiring MEMA to conduct a certain survey of certain organizations; requiring
9 MEMA to review certain emergency management plans; requiring MEMA to report
10 its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly on or before a certain
11 date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to emergency
12 planning and management.

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

15 (a) The Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) shall study and
16 make recommendations on best practices and model policies, including those addressing
17 emergency responder training, for the culturally sensitive inclusion of minority
18 communities in State and local emergency plans and management.

19 (b) In conducting the study and making recommendations, MEMA shall:

20 (1) conduct a survey of State and local government organizations for
21 emergency management to ascertain current emergency planning strategies that address
22 the needs of diverse communities, including:

23 (i) individuals with disabilities;

24 (ii) African American, Latino, Indigenous, and other minority
25 communities;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(iii) individuals with limited English proficiency;

(iv) individuals facing socioeconomic challenges; and

(v) individuals with religious restrictions; and

(2) review federal emergency management plans and the emergency management plans of other states that address the needs of diverse communities.

(c) On or before December 31, 2021, MEMA shall report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2021. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of June 30, 2022, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.