



Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Maryland Food System Resiliency Council

Communication and Coordination Subcommittee
September 12, 2022 1:00am -2:00pm

1. Welcome

2. Group Discussion

→ Development of Specific Recommendation Language

- A. FSRC Membership voted to approve the Communication and Coordination Recommendation: *The Food System Resiliency Council will become a formal independent, established body within the Maryland Department of Emergency Management*
- B. This recommendation will be included in the 2022 report for legislative consideration. Currently the FSRC is considered an independent unit of government that is staffed by Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM), which means while the Secretary of MDEM is a co chair, there is no formal budget, no mechanism to set up programs or project underneath the council, as the council is not an agency itself and does not fall under MDEM. Legislation indicates both MDEM and University of Maryland as staffing resources, however University of Maryland did not receive funding to procure staffing and there is less flexibility to move staffing resources.
- C. As the FSRC has agreed to become a formal part of MDEM, this will take a legislative change in statute, therefore specific details will need to be determined as to what the above recommendation entails. Several options presented include:
 - I. Become an independent or stand-alone agency under MDEM. **Example** : Remain a stand-alone group under the direction of the Secretary. Currently, the Maryland 9-1-1 Board is the best example of this within MDEM. The



Maryland

DEPARTMENT OF
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Board has an Executive Director and its own staff, and the Maryland 9 -1-1 Board directs the strategic management of the 9 -1-1 Trust Fund and development/implementation of Statewide 9 -1-1 policy. The 9 -1-1 Board is governed by the Public Safety Article, [§1301](#)-315. The board's 24 members are appointed to four - year terms by the governor with senate advice and consent. MDEM is required to provide staffing for the Board, which is funded by the Trust Fund.

- II. To be a council within MDEM but not an independent agency. Details regarding this option would be determined by Secretary Strickland (MDEM). **Example** , the Office of Resilience and the statute associated. This means council would not be funded as a separate source, and will not be kept separate from MDEM operations.
 - III. To not define the council in either direction (as an independent agency or a council within MDEM) giving the Secretary the option to determine the direction of the council (language would state: The Food Resiliency Council exists within MDEM). This will give the Secretary flexibility, but limits council flexibility with new administrative change (e.g. a new Secretary's decisions regarding council determinations).
- D. MDEM staff will write the initial recommendation for the September 19th draft report, to be sent to FSRC membership for consideration. MDEM staff will work towards drafting specific language that will further detailed terms of the recommendation, by October 3rd for subcommittee consideration. An email thread will be created to discuss language to present during the October 6th FSRC meeting.
 - E. Subcommittee requested a guide be created similar to what was created to illustrate structural options (including autonomy)

3. Next steps and adjourn



Maryland

DEPARTMENT OF
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

- MDEM staff will provide guidance for the subcommittee regarding language, with pros and cons, including autonomy
- Subcommittee members will determine and vote on terms for presentation during the October 6th FSRC meeting
- General Consideration and Idea gathering for FSRC bylaws, mission, and vision statement
 - A. Full subcommittee membership should determine if there is an interest in continuing process orientated work. Subcommittee members should begin looking at other existing council's established bylaw language, to determine what may be of interest for the FSRC.
 - B. The subcommittee indicated interest in engaging with legislators to discuss draft legislation prior to the general assembly. The subcommittee must begin this work now in order to get ahead of the general assembly.
 - C. Subcommittee members will communicate any suggested facilitators for consultants to lead work in the creation of bylaws, mission, and vision for the FSRC.