

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That Sections 6A and 6B of Article 16A - Civil Defense, of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1973 Replacement Volume and 1975 Supplement) be and they are hereby repealed and reenacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

Article 16A - Civil Defense

6A.

A state of emergency shall be declared by executive order or proclamation of the Governor if he finds that an emergency has developed or is impending for any cause whatsoever. The state of emergency shall continue until the Governor finds that the threat or danger has passed or the emergency has been dealt with to the extent that emergency conditions no longer exist and terminates the state of emergency by executive order or proclamation.

No state of emergency may continue for longer than 30 days unless renewed by the Governor. The General Assembly by joint resolution may terminate a state of emergency at any time. Thereupon, the Governor shall issue an executive order or proclamation ending the state of emergency. All executive orders or proclamations issued under this [subsection] SECTION shall indicate the nature of the emergency, the area or areas threatened, and the conditions which have brought it about or which make possible termination of the state of emergency. An executive order or proclamation shall be disseminated promptly by means calculated to bring its contents to the attention of the general public and, unless the circumstances attendant upon the emergency prevent or impede, promptly filed with the State Civil Defense and Disaster Preparedness Agency, the Hall of Records, and the local records-keeping agency in the area to which it applies.

6B.

A major disaster shall be declared by executive order or proclamation of the Governor if he finds that a major disaster has occurred or is imminent. The state of major disaster shall continue until the Governor finds that the threat or danger has passed or the disaster has been dealt with to the extent that major disaster conditions no longer exist and terminates the state of major disaster by executive order or proclamation. No state of major disaster may continue for longer than 30 days unless renewed by the Governor. The General Assembly by joint resolution may terminate a state of major disaster at any time. Thereupon, the Governor shall issue an executive order or proclamation ending the state of major disaster. All executive orders or proclamations issued under this [subsection] SECTION