



# TACIR

The Tennessee Advisory Commission  
on Intergovernmental Relations



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## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Commission Members

**FROM:** Cliff Lippard  
Executive Director

**DATE:** 17 January 2020

**SUBJECT:** Senate Bill 1114/House Bill 1120 (Community Resilience to Natural  
Catastrophes and Extreme Weather)—Panel

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Senate Bill 1114 by Senator Yarbrow and House Bill 1120 by Representative Freeman, referred to the Commission for study, would create a state government task force on community resilience, which is defined as the ability to prepare and plan for, absorb, recover from, and more successfully adapt to natural disasters and extreme weather. The sponsors have requested that the Commission

- identify different natural catastrophes and extreme weather risks across the state,
- document the current status of community resilience planning in Tennessee at the state and local level,
- identify best practices for community resiliency planning, and
- determine the cost of action and inaction related to community resiliency.

At the December 2019 meeting, following a presentation focused primarily on the first bulleted task, as well as on the costs associated with weather risks and on the potential return on investment of resiliency planning, the Commission requested information about steps individuals can take to prepare for and recover from natural disasters and extreme weather. The Tennessee Emergency Management Agency provides online resources for individuals and families that include threat-specific guidance, recommended contents of an emergency kit, and information on how to prepare kids for a disaster. See attachment.

To help accomplish the second bulleted task, the Commission will hear from a panel of experts discussing community resilience efforts currently underway:

- Kent Archer, CDBG Director, Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development
- Kendra Abkowitz, Director Office of Policy and Sustainable Practices, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation
- Patrick Sheehan, Director, Tennessee Emergency Management Agency

The Commission will receive the draft report by April for review and comment. That draft will incorporate and elaborate on the material covered in December and at this meeting, as well as address the final two bulleted tasks. The final report will be presented at the May Meeting.