

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2012 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Revised

House Bill 1235 (Delegate Zucker, *et al.*)

Health and Government Operations

Finance

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Public Safety - Emergency Number System - Next Generation 9-1-1 Services

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This bill alters the responsibilities of the Emergency Number Systems Board to include establishing planning guidelines for Next Generation 9-1-1 Services system plans and deployment of that service.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None. The bill codifies a definition of Next Generation 9-1-1 services. Planning guidelines for such services are already under development by the board. State operations or finances are not affected.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Bill Summary:** The bill defines Next Generation 9-1-1 Services to mean an Internet Protocol (IP)-based system, comprised of hardware, software, data, and operational policies and procedures, that:

- provides standardized interfaces from emergency call and message services to support emergency communications;
- processes all types of emergency calls, including voice, text, data, and multimedia information;

- acquires and integrates additional emergency call data useful to call routing and handling;
- delivers the emergency calls, messages, and data to the appropriate public safety answering point and other appropriate emergency entities;
- supports data or video communications needs for coordinated incident response and management; and
- provides broadband service to public safety answering points or other first responder entities.

**Current Law:** The Emergency Number Systems Board was established by Chapter 730 of 1979. It coordinates installation and enhancement of county 9-1-1 emergency telephone number services systems. The board issues guidelines and determines review procedures to approve or disapprove county plans for these systems and sets criteria for reimbursing counties from the original 9-1-1 Trust Fund and from ongoing funds, and provides for audit of trust fund accounts.

The 9-1-1 Trust Fund includes revenue from both a State and local surcharge that is assessed per bill for wired and wireless service. Revenue from the State fee is distributed to the Maryland counties at the discretion of the Emergency Number Systems Board in response to county 9-1-1 system enhancement requests. The board's statutory responsibilities include establishing procedures for the request for reimbursement of the costs of enhancing a 9-1-1 system by a county or counties in which a 9-1-1 system is in operation, and procedures to review and approve, or disapprove the request. This does not specifically include procedures to limit the request.

**Background:** Next generation 9-1-1 services (also known as NG 9-1-1 services) allow texting to 9-1-1, sending emails, and including various data files such as digital photographs and video. The bill's definition of such services mirrors the federal definition.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Baltimore, Cecil, Carroll, and, St. Mary's counties; Department of Budget and Management; Department of State Police; Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 9, 2012  
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