

# HOUSE BILL 509

E4

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By: **Delegate Acevero**

Introduced and read first time: January 15, 2021

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **9-1-1 Specialists – Classification as First Responders**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the intent of the General Assembly regarding classification of  
4 certain 9-1-1 specialists as first responders; defining a certain term; and generally  
5 relating to 9-1-1 specialists and first responders.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
7 Article – Public Safety  
8 Section 1-301 and 1-302.1  
9 Annotated Code of Maryland  
10 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

11 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
12 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

13 **Article – Public Safety**

14 1-301.

15 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

16 (b) “Board” means the Maryland 9-1-1 Board.

17 (c) “Commercial mobile radio service” or “CMRS” means mobile  
18 telecommunications service that is:

19 (1) provided for profit with the intent of receiving compensation or  
20 monetary gain;

21 (2) an interconnected, two-way voice service; and

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (3) available to the public.

2 (d) “Commercial mobile radio service provider” or “CMRS provider” means a  
3 person authorized by the Federal Communications Commission to provide CMRS in the  
4 State.

5 (e) “County 9–1–1 fee” means the fee imposed by a county in accordance with §  
6 1–311 of this subtitle.

7 (f) “County plan” means a plan for a 9–1–1 system or enhanced 9–1–1 system, or  
8 an amendment to the plan, developed by a county or several counties together under this  
9 subtitle.

10 (g) (1) “Customer” means:

11 (i) the person that contracts with a home service provider for CMRS;  
12 or

13 (ii) the end user of the CMRS if the end user of the CMRS is not the  
14 contracting party.

15 (2) “Customer” does not include:

16 (i) a reseller of CMRS; or

17 (ii) a serving carrier under an arrangement to serve the customer  
18 outside the home service provider’s licensed service area.

19 (h) “Enhanced 9–1–1 system” means a 9–1–1 system that provides:

20 (1) automatic number identification;

21 (2) automatic location identification; and

22 (3) any other technological advancements that the Board requires.

23 (i) “FCC order” means an order issued by the Federal Communications  
24 Commission under proceedings regarding the compatibility of enhanced 9–1–1 systems and  
25 delivery of wireless enhanced 9–1–1 service.

26 (j) **(1) “FIRST RESPONDER” MEANS AN EMPLOYEE OF A STATE OR LOCAL  
27 PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCY THAT PROVIDES EMERGENCY RESPONSE SERVICES.**

28 **(2) “FIRST RESPONDER” INCLUDES:**

29 **(I) A FIREFIGHTER;**

1                   **(II) A PARAMEDIC;**

2                   **(III) AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN;**

3                   **(IV) A RESCUE SQUAD MEMBER;**

4                   **(V) A SWORN MEMBER OF THE OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE**  
5 **MARSHAL;**

6                   **(VI) A MEMBER OF A VOLUNTEER FIRE OR RESCUE COMPANY**  
7 **WHO IS A COVERED EMPLOYEE UNDER § 9-234 OF THE LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT**  
8 **ARTICLE;**

9                   **(VII) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS LICENSED OR CERTIFIED UNDER §**  
10 **13-516 OF THE EDUCATION ARTICLE; AND**

11                   **(VIII) A 9-1-1 SPECIALIST.**

12           **(K)** “Home service provider” means the facilities-based carrier or reseller that  
13 contracts with a customer to provide CMRS.

14           **[(k)] (L)** “Next Generation 9-1-1 services” means an Internet Protocol  
15 (IP)-based system, comprised of hardware, software, data, and operational policies and  
16 procedures, that:

17                   (1) provides standardized interfaces from emergency call and message  
18 services to support emergency communications;

19                   (2) processes all types of requests for emergency services, including voice,  
20 text, data, and multimedia information;

21                   (3) acquires and integrates additional emergency call data useful to  
22 routing and handling of requests for emergency services;

23                   (4) delivers the emergency calls, messages, and data to the appropriate  
24 public safety answering point and other appropriate emergency entities;

25                   (5) supports data or video communications needs for coordinated incident  
26 response and management; and

27                   (6) provides broadband service to public safety answering points or other  
28 first responder entities.

1           **[(l)] (M)**     “9–1–1–accessible service” means telephone service or another  
2 communications service that connects an individual dialing the digits 9–1–1 to an  
3 established public safety answering point.

4           **[(m)] (N)**     (1)   “9–1–1 service carrier” means a provider of CMRS or other  
5 9–1–1–accessible service.

6                       (2)   “9–1–1 service carrier” does not include a telephone company.

7           **[(n)] (O)**     “9–1–1 specialist” means an employee of a county public safety  
8 answering point, or an employee working in a county public safety answering point, whose  
9 duties and responsibilities include:

10                   (1)   receiving and processing 9–1–1 requests for emergency services;

11                   (2)   other support functions directly related to 9–1–1 requests for  
12 emergency services; or

13                   (3)   dispatching law enforcement officers, fire rescue services, emergency  
14 medical services, and other public safety services to the scene of an emergency.

15           **[(o)] (P)**     (1)   “9–1–1 system” means telephone service that:

16                   (i)   meets the planning guidelines established under this subtitle;  
17 and

18                   (ii)   automatically connects an individual dialing the digits 9–1–1 to  
19 an established public safety answering point.

20                   (2)   “9–1–1 system” includes:

21                   (i)   equipment for connecting and outswitching 9–1–1 calls within a  
22 telephone central office;

23                   (ii)   trunking facilities from a telephone central office to a public  
24 safety answering point; and

25                   (iii)  equipment to connect 9–1–1 calls to the appropriate public safety  
26 agency.

27           **[(p)] (Q)**     “9–1–1 Trust Fund” means the fund established under § 1–308 of this  
28 subtitle.

29           **[(q)] (R)**     “Prepaid wireless E 9–1–1 fee” means the fee that is required to be  
30 collected by a seller from a consumer in the amount established under § 1–313 of this  
31 subtitle.

1            **[(r)] (S)**     “Prepaid wireless telecommunications service” means a commercial  
2 mobile radio service that:

- 3            (1)     allows a consumer to dial 9–1–1 to access the 9–1–1 system;
- 4            (2)     must be paid for in advance; and
- 5            (3)     is sold in predetermined units that decline with use in a known amount.

6            **[(s)] (T)**     “Public safety agency” means:

- 7            (1)     a functional division of a public agency that provides fire fighting,  
8 police, medical, or other emergency services; or
- 9            (2)     a private entity that provides fire fighting, police, medical, or other  
10 emergency services on a voluntary basis.

11           **[(t)] (U)**     “Public safety answering point” means a communications facility that:

- 12           (1)     is operated on a 24–hour basis;
- 13           (2)     first receives 9–1–1 requests for emergency services in a 9–1–1 service  
14 area; and
- 15           (3)     as appropriate:
- 16                    (i)     dispatches public safety services directly;
- 17                    (ii)    transmits incident data to appropriate public safety agencies  
18 within the State for the dispatch of public safety services; or
- 19                    (iii)    transfers 9–1–1 requests for emergency services or transmits  
20 incident data to:

21                    1.     an appropriate federal emergency communication center  
22 responsible for the delivery of public safety services on a federal campus or federal  
23 reservation; or

24                    2.     an appropriate public safety answering point located  
25 within or outside the State.

26           **[(u)] (V)**     “Secretary” means the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional  
27 Services.

28           **[(v)] (W)**     “Seller” means a person that sells prepaid wireless telecommunications  
29 service to another person.

1            [(w)] (x)      “State 9–1–1 fee” means the fee imposed in accordance with § 1–310 of  
2 this subtitle.

3            [(x)] (y)      “Wireless enhanced 9–1–1 service” means enhanced 9–1–1 service  
4 under an FCC order.  
5 1–302.1.

6            (a)      The General Assembly finds that 9–1–1 specialists are key members of the  
7 team of public safety personnel responding to requests from the public for emergency  
8 assistance.

9            (b)      It is the intent of the General Assembly that jurisdictions employing 9–1–1  
10 specialists:

11                    (1)      appropriately classify 9–1–1 specialists **AS FIRST RESPONDERS** in  
12 recognition of the training, knowledge, and skills that 9–1–1 specialists possess and  
13 demonstrate in answering and handling requests for emergency assistance; and

14                    (2)      compensate 9–1–1 specialists in a manner that:

15                            (i)      reflects their membership in the team of public safety personnel  
16 answering and responding to requests for emergency assistance; and

17                            (ii)     is commensurate with the training, knowledge, and skills they  
18 possess.

19            SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
20 October 1, 2021.