

MACo_FAV_SB47

Uploaded by: Kinnally, Kevin

Position: FAV



Senate Bill 47

*Commission to Advance Next Generation 9-1-1 Across Maryland –
Extension and Alteration*

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Finance Committee

Date: January 30, 2020

From: Kevin Kinnally

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 47. This bill will help Maryland continue its move toward Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG911), deliver these services equitably across the state, and assure effective coordination with communications providers.

In 2019, the General Assembly passed Carl Henn’s Law, landmark legislation to update state laws and the 9-1-1 financing system to provide the flexibility and resources needed for the deployment of a statewide NG911 system that our residents expect and deserve. As Maryland accelerates its move toward NG911, proper oversight is necessary to guide this critical transition, harnessing public safety leadership and expertise to address complex public safety concerns.

SB 47 extends the sunset for the Commission to Advance Next Generation 9-1-1 Across Maryland in order to monitor and report on the progress toward the implementation and evolution of NG911. Specifically, the Commission will assess the revised financing structure and its propriety for next-generation demands, ensure all applicable fees and charges are properly remitted to the State and local jurisdictions, recommend policies to protect against cybersecurity threats, and evaluate the overall implementation of Carl Henn’s Law.

By providing the proper framework and resources to guide a successful statewide transition to NG911, SB 47 will enhance public safety communications in Maryland and in our local communities.

Accordingly, MACo urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 47.

Kagan_FAV_SB47

Uploaded by: Senator Kagan, Senator Kagan

Position: FAV

CHERYL C. KAGAN
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Education, Health, and
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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

SB47: Commission Extension
Finance Committee
Hearing: January 30, 2020, 2:00 PM

Since its formation in 2018, the Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG911) Commission has made Maryland a national leader in emergency response systems. Last year, the Commission's 23 recommendations were incorporated into three new laws. They focused on funding, oversight, accountability, technology, and staffing. Despite the Commission's accomplishments, there is much work yet to be done.

For the 2020 Session, the Commission made 25 recommendations which including:

- Shifting audit responsibility to the Comptroller's office to guarantee that 9-1-1 fees are collected and remitted accurately;
- Recognizing the need for continuing education and occupational wellness for 9-1-1 Specialists;
- Renaming the Emergency Number Systems Board (ENSB) and modifying its membership;
- Requiring transparency for the public portion of the ENSB's meetings;
- Increasing penalties for 9-1-1 misuse; and,
- Protecting the privacy rights of callers/victims as NG911 enables people to send photos and videos to 9-1-1.

Under current law, the Commission will be terminated as of June 30, 2020. Upgrading Maryland's emergency response systems to Next Generation 9-1-1 will not happen overnight. The Commission needs to oversee the implementation of NG911 and address any unforeseen complications.

The NG911 Commission's members--comprised of experts from 9-1-1, government, industry, and technology-- have voted to continue our work. SB47 would extend the Commission for an additional two years. This will ensure that members can convene, consider, and recommend initiatives to establish and maintain the interoperability and interconnectivity that will help save lives.

I urge the Committee to favorably report Senate Bill 47.

MDOD_INFO_SB47

Uploaded by: Hall, Elizabeth

Position: INFO



DATE: January 30, 2020

BILL: Senate Bill 47: Commission to Advance Next Generation 9-1-1 Across Maryland - Extension and Alteration

COMMITTEE: Finance Committee

POSITION: Letter of Information

Dear Chair Kelley,

The Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD) is pleased to write a letter of information for Senate Bill 47: Commission to Advance Next Generation 9-1-1 Across Maryland - Extension and Alteration. This bill extends and alters the Commission to Advance Next Generation 9-1-1 Across Maryland. MDOD has been involved in efforts to improve access to 911 services by people with disabilities who utilize assistive communication technologies.

The Secretary of MDOD, or the Secretary's designee, is a voting member of the Commission to Advance Next Generation 911 Across Maryland. The continuation of the Commission's work ensures that emerging Next Generation 911 (NG911) infrastructure and interoperability reflect the needs of the whole community, including individuals with disabilities who access 911 services using non-traditional technologies. The two annual reports issued by the Commission have contributed to Maryland's NG911 body of knowledge and included recommendations important to individuals with disabilities.

MDOD has been focusing on improved accessibility and emergency communications in the State Disabilities Plan. To that end, MDOD seeks:

- To ensure that NG911 systems are inter-operable to Assistive Technologies.
- To ensure that people with disabilities will be able to request emergency services using non-traditional devices.
- To ensure that communication technologies used by people with disabilities can be located (GPS enabled devices) in the equivalent manner as devices used by people without disabilities.
- To ensure that emerging technologies encased within NG911 core services are leveraged to improve emergency services to individuals with disabilities.
- To ensure that Video Relay Service and other Relay technologies are properly considered in the delivery of NG911 services.

If you have any questions please contact Elizabeth Hall, Director of Interagency Affairs, (410)767-3652, elizabeth.hall2@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol A. Beatty". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carol A. Beatty, Secretary