



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

ROCKVILLE: 240-777-6550

ANNAPOLIS: 240-777-8270

SB 838

DATE: March 10, 2020

SPONSOR: Senators Kagan and Reilly (By Request – Commission to Advance Next Generation 9-1-1 Across Maryland)

ASSIGNED TO: Finance

CONTACT PERSON: Sara Morningstar (Sara.Morningstar@montgomerycountymd.gov)

POSITION: SUPPORT (Montgomery County Department of Police)

Public Safety – 9-1-1 Emergency Telephone System

Senate Bill 838 contains various changes to the statutory framework that governs Maryland's 9-1-1 system. The measure was introduced at the request of the Commission to Advance Next Generation 9-1-1 Across Maryland. Montgomery County Department of Police supports SB 838.

Last spring, the General Assembly overwhelmingly passed an extensive and bi-partisan legislative initiative to update State laws and the 9-1-1 financing system to provide flexibility and resources needed for the deployment of a Statewide Next Generation (NG911) system. This was a major achievement, but the work of the Commission has continued to provide for the effective delivery of NG911 service across the State. In December, additional proposed actions requiring legislative approval were reported by the group and are reflected in SB 838. Examples of these recommendations include changing the name from the Emergency Number Systems Board to the Maryland 9-1-1 Board, defining the roles and responsibilities of the 9-1-1 Board members, and renaming the county additional charge to the county 9-1-1 fee.

Senate Bill 838 will help Maryland to successfully transition to Next Generation 9-1-1. The Montgomery County Department of Police urges the Committee to adopt a favorable report on the bill.