



Statement of Maryland Rural Health Association (MRHA)

To the Health and Government Operations

Chair: Delegate Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk

February 28, 2024

House Bill 1141: Human Services - 2-1-1 and 3-1-1 Systems - Nonemergency Information and Referrals

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison, and members of the committee, the Maryland Rural Health Association (MRHA), is in SUPPORT of House Bill 1141: Human Services - 2-1-1 and 3-1-1 Systems - Nonemergency Information and Referrals

The Maryland Rural Health Association Recognizes that an integrated telephone system would provide a single 10 source for information and referral to health and human services, community preparedness, and crisis information and could be accessed toll-free from anywhere in 12 Maryland, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Acknowledges that the three-digit number, 2-1-1, is a nationally recognized and applied telephone number which may be used for information and referral and eliminates delays caused by lack of familiarity with health and human services numbers and by understandable confusion in circumstances of crisis; and Recognizes a demonstrated need for an easy to remember, easy to use telephone number that will enable individuals in need to be directed to available community resources. We urge a favorable report.

*On behalf of the Maryland Rural Health Association,
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