



🌐 [mdem.maryland.gov](http://mdem.maryland.gov)

☎ 877-636-2872

📍 7229 Parkway Drive, Suite 200 | Hanover, MD 21076

Governor | Wes Moore Lt. Governor | Aruna Miller Secretary | Russell J. Strickland

**FAVORABLE - SB 36**  
**Public Safety - 9-1-1 Trust Fund - 9-8-8 Suicide Prevention Hotline**  
Budget and Taxation

Maryland Department of Emergency Management  
Hearing Date: 15 JAN 2025

The Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM) writes in support of **SB 36 - Public Safety - 9-1-1 Trust Fund - 9-8-8 Suicide Prevention Hotline**. The bill seeks to increase flexibility for public safety answer points (PSAPs) to use the 9-1-1 Trust Fund to enhance 9-1-1 systems. The bill repeals prohibitive language, which currently prevents PSAPs from using the 9-1-1 Trust Fund for enhancing integration or interoperability between 9-1-1 and 9-8-8 systems.

The goal of this legislation is to encourage increased cooperation and collaboration between 9-1-1 and 9-8-8 organizations. The strict prohibition on using 9-1-1 Trust Fund dollars towards any effort related to 9-8-8 significantly limits PSAPs from conducting joint training; pursuing interoperable and integrative technology that will benefit residents and PSAPs alike; and bringing innovative projects to the 9-1-1 Board for consideration. The Maryland 9-1-1 Board remains fiscal stewards of the Trust Fund, and the proposed language will continue to ensure 9-1-1 Trust Fund dollars benefit PSAPs. The Department believes this language will achieve the intent without risking the use of the Trust Fund for efforts that do not benefit the 9-1-1 system.

In conclusion, MDEM urges a **favorable report of SB0036 - Public Safety - 9-1-1 Trust Fund - 9-8-8 Suicide Prevention Hotline**. If you have any questions, please contact Anna Sierra, MDEM legislative liaison: [anna.sierra1@maryland.gov](mailto:anna.sierra1@maryland.gov).