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**FAVORABLE - SB 81**

**SB 81 - Criminal Law - Interference with a Public Safety Answering Point - Penalties**

Judiciary

Hearing Date: 25 March 2025

The Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM) writes today in support of **SB 81 - Criminal Law - Interference with a Public Safety Answering Point - Penalties**.

**SB 81** is a crucial step toward protecting access to critical emergency services for Maryland residents. This bill will criminalize actions taken intentionally to disrupt the operations of Maryland's Public Safety Answering Points (also known as 9-1-1 Centers), the universal access point to emergency services.

The Maryland Department of Emergency Management, home to the Maryland 9-1-1 Board, recognizes the importance of this bill and we respectfully request a favorable report. Public Safety Answering Points are critical in the chain of public safety response in Maryland. The current statute specifies penalties for interference with other critical services including State government, public utilities, healthcare facilities and public schools. Public Safety Answering Points should be added to this statute to ensure any individual seeking to disrupt the first node in our life-saving emergency services system is penalized and held accountable.

In conclusion, the Maryland Department of Emergency Management respectfully requests a favorable report on **SB 81 - Criminal Law - Interference with a Public Safety Answering Point - Penalties**. If you have any questions, please contact Anna Sierra, MDEM legislative liaison: [anna.sierra1@maryland.gov](mailto:anna.sierra1@maryland.gov).