

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2008 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 178

(Chair, Finance Committee) (By Request – Departmental –
Public Safety and Correctional Services)

Finance

Health and Government Operations

Public Safety - Emergency Number Systems Board - Membership

This departmental bill increases the membership of the Emergency Number Systems Board from 15 to 17 members by adding a representative of geographical information systems in the State and an additional representative of emergency management services.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any additional expense reimbursements for board members are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within the existing budgeted resources of the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS).

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: DPSCS has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

Analysis

Current Law: The Emergency Numbers Systems Board was established by Chapter 730 of 1979. It coordinates installation and enhancement of county 9-1-1 emergency telephone number services systems. The board issues guidelines and determines review procedures to approve or disapprove county plans for these systems and sets criteria for reimbursing counties from the original 9-1-1 Trust Fund and from ongoing funds, and provides for audit of trust fund accounts.

The board's 15 members are appointed to four-year terms by the Governor with Senate advice and consent, and do not receive compensation beyond reimbursements under the standard State travel regulations. The chair of the board is appointed by the Governor.

Background: According to DPSCS, the current membership of the board provides representation for the landline and wireless telephone companies operating in the State, as well as the State agencies and national associations dealing with emergency number services. The purpose of this bill is to add "expertise and knowledge" to the board to help implement future system changes.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services,
Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 23, 2008
ncs/jr

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