

SENATE BILL 285

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By: **Senators Kagan and Middleton**

Introduced and read first time: January 22, 2018

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Commission to Advance Next Generation 9-1-1 Across Maryland –**
3 **Establishment**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Commission to Advance Next Generation 9-1-1 Across
5 Maryland; providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Commission;
6 prohibiting a member of the Commission from receiving certain compensation, but
7 authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Commission to
8 study and make recommendations regarding certain matters; requiring the
9 Commission to report its preliminary findings and recommendations to the Governor
10 and the General Assembly on or before a certain date; requiring the Commission to
11 report its final findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General
12 Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and
13 generally relating to the Commission to Advance Next Generation 9-1-1 Across
14 Maryland.

15 Preamble

16 WHEREAS, Maryland citizens demand and expect 9-1-1 emergency service to be
17 reliable and efficient; and

18 WHEREAS, Communications technologies available to the public and first
19 responders have substantially outpaced the legacy communications technologies presently
20 utilized by most public safety answering points in Maryland; and

21 WHEREAS, This lack of modern technology is impacting the ability of the 9-1-1
22 system to efficiently and effectively provide responses to emergencies; and

23 WHEREAS, Modernizing Maryland's 9-1-1 system to include new and evolving
24 capabilities of broadband voice and data communications is essential for the safety and
25 security of the general public as well as first responders; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 WHEREAS, Accelerated implementation of Next Generation 9–1–1 will increase
2 compatibility with emerging communications trends, enhance the flexibility and reliability
3 of Maryland’s 9–1–1 system during major incidents, improve emergency response for the
4 public and emergency responders, and reduce the overall cost of operating systems across
5 Maryland; and

6 WHEREAS, A statewide strategy has become essential to help guide the transition
7 and create a common framework for implementation of Next Generation 9–1–1 services;
8 now, therefore,

9 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
10 That:

11 (a) There is a Commission to Advance Next Generation 9–1–1 (“NG9–1–1”)
12 Across Maryland.

13 (b) The Commission consists of the following members:

14 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of
15 the Senate;

16 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the
17 House;

18 (3) the Emergency Numbers Systems Board Executive Director, or the
19 Executive Director’s designee;

20 (4) the Emergency Numbers Systems Board Chair, or the Chair’s designee;

21 (5) the Secretary of Information Technology, or the Secretary’s designee;

22 (6) the Maryland Public Service Commission Chair, or the Chair’s
23 designee;

24 (7) four representatives from county public safety answering points,
25 appointed by the Maryland Association of Counties;

26 (8) one 9–1–1 public safety telecommunicator, appointed by the Maryland
27 Association of Counties;

28 (9) two county government representatives, with familiarity with county
29 purchasing and finances, appointed by the Maryland Association of Counties; and

30 (10) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

31 (i) one representative from the Eastern Shore Communications
32 Alliance, familiar with emergency call and message services;

1 (ii) one representative from the Washington Council of
2 Governments, familiar with emergency call and message services;

3 (iii) one representative from the Baltimore Metropolitan Council of
4 Governments, familiar with emergency call and message services;

5 (iv) one representative from the Maryland chapter of the National
6 Emergency Numbers Association, familiar with emergency call and message services;

7 (v) one representative from the Association of Public-Safety
8 Communications Officials International Mid-Eastern Chapter, familiar with emergency
9 call and message services;

10 (vi) one representative from a local exchange carrier offering service
11 within Maryland; and

12 (vii) one representative from the wireless communications industry
13 offering service within Maryland.

14 (c) The Commission shall elect the chair of the Commission.

15 (d) The Frederick County Council shall provide staff for the Commission.

16 (e) A member of the Commission:

17 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Commission; but

18 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State
19 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

20 (f) The Commission shall study and make recommendations regarding:

21 (1) the implementation, management, operation, and ongoing development
22 of NG9-1-1 emergency communication services;

23 (2) the current statutory and regulatory framework for the management
24 and funding of the 9-1-1 system within the State;

25 (3) federal, State, and local authorities, agencies, and governing bodies
26 whose participation and cooperation will be necessary for the implementation of NG9-1-1
27 emergency communication services in the State;

28 (4) any efforts, projects, or initiatives in progress or planned in Maryland
29 or any other state regarding the implementation of NG9-1-1 emergency communication
30 services;

1 (5) the costs required to plan, test, implement, manage, and operate
2 NG9-1-1 technology and services;

3 (6) best practices, policies, and procedures for public safety
4 telecommunicators; and

5 (7) any other issues the Commission may consider useful in the planning
6 and implementation of NG9-1-1 emergency communication services in the State.

7 (g) On or before December 1, 2018, the Commission shall submit a preliminary
8 report to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article,
9 the General Assembly on:

10 (1) the needs, both capital and operating, to bring efficient and effective
11 NG9-1-1 technology and service across Maryland, and estimated costs required to effect
12 this priority outcome;

13 (2) the current funding structure for both State and local support for
14 9-1-1 service and its adequacy in supporting both current service and anticipated next
15 generation service;

16 (3) comparisons of the current Maryland 9-1-1 fee and additional charge
17 mechanism under § 1-310 of the Public Safety Article and comparable systems used in
18 other states;

19 (4) potential changes to the Maryland 9-1-1 fee and additional charge
20 mechanism, and their estimated effect on the implementation of full-service NG9-1-1
21 across Maryland;

22 (5) potential statutory or administrative changes to the scope of allowable
23 uses for grant funding approved through the Emergency Numbers Systems Board, to
24 promote and ensure ideal support for maintenance, training, and other costs associated
25 with both the transition to NG9-1-1 service and the continued functions of effective call
26 centers; and

27 (6) other matters related to the financing and procurement of NG9-1-1
28 across Maryland.

29 (h) On or before December 1, 2019, the Commission shall submit a final report to
30 the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the
31 General Assembly on:

32 (1) the current statutory and regulatory framework for the management
33 and funding of the 9-1-1 system within the State;

1 (2) the implementation, management, operation, and ongoing development
2 of NG9-1-1 emergency communication services, during both transition to expanded service
3 and their permanent sustenance;

4 (3) the ideal role and placement for the Emergency Number Systems Board
5 within State government to best service its broad and evolving missions;

6 (4) federal, State, and local authorities, agencies, and governing bodies
7 whose participation and cooperation will be necessary for the implementation of NG9-1-1
8 emergency communication services in the State;

9 (5) any efforts, projects, or initiatives in progress or planned in Maryland
10 or any other state regarding the implementation of NG9-1-1 emergency communication
11 services;

12 (6) best practices, policies, and procedures for public safety
13 telecommunicators; and

14 (7) any other issues the Commission may consider useful in the planning
15 and implementation of NG9-1-1 emergency communication services in the State.

16 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
17 1, 2018. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and 1 month and, at the end of June
18 30, 2020, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be
19 abrogated and of no further force and effect.