

## Chapter 302

**(Senate Bill 285)**

AN ACT concerning

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

FOR the purpose of establishing the Commission to Advance Next Generation 9–1–1 Across Maryland; providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Commission; authorizing the Emergency Number Systems Board to contract with a third-party contractor for a certain purpose; prohibiting a member of the Commission from receiving certain compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Commission to study and make recommendations regarding certain matters; requiring the Commission to report its preliminary findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain date; requiring the Commission to report its final findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain date; authorizing a jurisdiction to implement NG9–1–1 services before the Commission has submitted the final report to the Governor and the General Assembly; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Commission to Advance Next Generation 9–1–1 Across Maryland.

## Preamble

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(b) The Commission consists of the following members:

(1) ~~one member~~ two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of the Senate;

(2) ~~one member~~ two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(3) the Secretary of Disabilities, or the Secretary’s designee;

~~(3)~~ (4) the Emergency Numbers Systems Board Executive Director, or the Executive Director’s designee;

~~(4)~~ (5) the Emergency Numbers Systems Board Chair, or the Chair’s designee;

~~(5)~~ (6) the Secretary of Information Technology, or the Secretary’s designee;

~~(6)~~ (7) the Maryland Public Service Commission Chair, or the Chair’s designee;

~~(7)~~ (8) four representatives from county public safety answering points, appointed by the Maryland Association of Counties;

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

~~(9)~~ (10) two county government representatives, with familiarity with county purchasing and finances, appointed by the Maryland Association of Counties; and

~~(10)~~ (11) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

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

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

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

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

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

(vi) one nonvoting representative from the broadband industry offering service within Maryland;

~~(vi)~~ (vii) one nonvoting representative from a local exchange carrier offering service within Maryland; and

~~(vii)~~ (viii) one nonvoting representative from the wireless communications industry offering service within Maryland.

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

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

(1) The entities represented on the Commission under subsection (b)(3) through (6) of this section jointly shall provide staff for the Commission.

(2) The Emergency Number Systems Board may contract with a third party to provide staff for the Commission under paragraph (1) of this subsection.

(e) A member of the Commission:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(7) the anticipation and prevention of cybersecurity threats to NG9-1-1 infrastructure.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(i) A jurisdiction may implement NG9-1-1 services before the Commission has submitted the final report to the Governor and the General Assembly as required by subsection (h) of this section.

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

**Approved by the Governor, April 24, 2018.**