

# HOUSE BILL 421

E4

5lr0831  
CF SB 36

---

By: **Delegates S. Johnson, A. Johnson, Kerr, McComas, and Taveras**

Introduced and read first time: January 16, 2025

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

---

## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Safety – 9–1–1 Trust Fund – 9–8–8 Suicide Prevention Hotline**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the use of the 9–1–1 Trust Fund for certain expenditures  
4 that support the 9–8–8 suicide prevention hotline; altering a certain restriction on  
5 the use of the 9–1–1 Trust Fund to prohibit funds from being used for expenses solely  
6 related to the 9–8–8 suicide prevention hotline, instead of preventing the use of funds  
7 for any costs associated with the 9–8–8 suicide prevention hotline; and generally  
8 relating to the 9–1–1 Trust Fund and the 9–8–8 suicide prevention hotline.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
10 Article – Public Safety  
11 Section 1–308(a) and 1–309(a) and (c)(1)  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
15 Article – Public Safety  
16 Section 1–308(b) and 1–309(c)(6)  
17 Annotated Code of Maryland  
18 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

19 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
20 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

21 **Article – Public Safety**

22 1–308.

23 (a) There is a 9–1–1 Trust Fund.

---

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (b) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection and subject to §  
2 1–309.1 of this subtitle, the purposes of the 9–1–1 Trust Fund are to:

3 (i) reimburse counties for the cost of enhancing a 9–1–1 system;

4 (ii) pay contractors in accordance with § 1–306(b)(12) of this subtitle;  
5 and

6 (iii) fund the coordinator position and staff to handle the increased  
7 duties related to wireless enhanced 9–1–1 service under § 1–305 of this subtitle, as an  
8 administrative cost.

9 (2) Subject to paragraph (3) of this subsection, in addition to the purposes  
10 described under paragraph (1) of this subsection, the purposes of the 9–1–1 Trust Fund  
11 include funding:

12 (i) the operation and maintenance of 9–1–1 systems, enhanced  
13 9–1–1 systems, and Next Generation 9–1–1 services, including:

14 1. equipment and software utilized directly for providing  
15 9–1–1 services by a public safety answering point;

16 2. protocol systems and software utilized directly for  
17 providing 9–1–1 services by a public safety answering point;

18 3. interpretation services provided for a public safety  
19 answering point;

20 4. services provided for a public safety answering point to  
21 ensure improved access to individuals with disabilities and other individuals who use  
22 assistive technology; and

23 5. voice, data, and call log recorders utilized to capture  
24 information from 9–1–1 systems, enhanced 9–1–1 systems, and Next Generation 9–1–1  
25 services;

26 (ii) the operation and maintenance of 9–1–1 systems, enhanced  
27 9–1–1 systems, and Next Generation 9–1–1 services connectivity and infrastructure  
28 equipment, including:

29 1. automatic number and location identification; and

30 2. Primary Rate Interface and Session Initiation Protocol  
31 trucking for 10–digit emergency and nonemergency lines;

1 (iii) geographical information systems hardware, software, data  
2 development, and data management costs incurred for the effective operation of 9-1-1  
3 systems, enhanced 9-1-1 systems, and Next Generation 9-1-1 services, including:

4 1. mapping equipment;

5 2. interfaces to computer-aided dispatch; and

6 3. geographical information systems base layer development  
7 and management;

8 (iv) public safety answering point facilities costs, including access  
9 control, security systems, and standby power;

10 (v) costs for public education materials;

11 (vi) the training of county personnel working in or directly  
12 supporting a public safety answering point;

13 (vii) the provision of tuition reimbursement for 9-1-1 specialists for  
14 educational programs related to the 9-1-1 specialist career field;

15 (viii) costs to maintain the cybersecurity of 9-1-1 systems, enhanced  
16 9-1-1 systems, and Next Generation 9-1-1 services;

17 (ix) costs of 9-1-1 specialist recruitment activities as described in §  
18 1-306(b)(17) of this subtitle; [and]

19 (x) costs of telecommunications cardiopulmonary resuscitation  
20 training; AND

21 **(XI) COSTS RELATED TO THE OPERATION OF THE 9-8-8 SUICIDE**  
22 **PREVENTION HOTLINE THAT MAY BE SHARED WITH 9-1-1 ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING**  
23 **SOFTWARE INTERFACES AND JOINT TRAINING.**

24 (3) Funding allocated in accordance with paragraph (2) of this subsection  
25 may not be utilized for any [purpose associated with] **COSTS THAT SOLELY SUPPORT** the  
26 9-8-8 suicide prevention hotline.

27 1-309.

28 (a) On recommendation of the Board, each year the Secretary shall request an  
29 appropriation from the 9-1-1 Trust Fund in an amount sufficient to:

30 (1) carry out the purposes of this subtitle;

**HOUSE BILL 421**

- 1                   (2)    pay the administrative costs chargeable to the 9–1–1 Trust Fund; and
- 2                   (3)    reimburse counties for the cost of enhancing a 9–1–1 system.
- 3           (c)    (1)    Money accruing to the 9–1–1 Trust Fund may be used as provided in  
4 this subsection.
- 5                   (6)    Money accruing to the 9–1–1 Trust Fund may not be used for:
- 6                           (i)    the maintenance or operation of communications centers other  
7 than public safety answering points; or
- 8                           (ii)   any [purpose associated with] **COSTS THAT SOLELY SUPPORT**  
9 the 9–8–8 suicide prevention hotline.

10           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
11 October 1, 2025.