

Chapter 13

(House Bill 421)

AN ACT concerning

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

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

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Public Safety

Section 1–308(a) and 1–309(a) and (c)(1)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Public Safety

Section 1–308(b) and 1–309(c)(6)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

Article – Public Safety

1–308.

(a) There is a 9–1–1 Trust Fund.

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

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

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

and

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

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

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

1. equipment and software utilized directly for providing 9–1–1 services by a public safety answering point;
2. protocol systems and software utilized directly for providing 9–1–1 services by a public safety answering point;
3. interpretation services provided for a public safety answering point;
4. services provided for a public safety answering point to ensure improved access to individuals with disabilities and other individuals who use assistive technology; and
5. voice, data, and call log recorders utilized to capture information from 9–1–1 systems, enhanced 9–1–1 systems, and Next Generation 9–1–1 services;

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

1. automatic number and location identification; and
2. Primary Rate Interface and Session Initiation Protocol trucking for 10–digit emergency and nonemergency lines;

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

1. mapping equipment;
2. interfaces to computer–aided dispatch; and
3. geographical information systems base layer development and management;

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

(v) costs for public education materials;

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

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

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

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

(x) costs of telecommunications cardiopulmonary resuscitation training; AND

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

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

1-309.

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

(1) carry out the purposes of this subtitle;

(2) pay the administrative costs chargeable to the 9-1-1 Trust Fund; and

(3) reimburse counties for the cost of enhancing a 9-1-1 system.

(c) (1) Money accruing to the 9-1-1 Trust Fund may be used as provided in this subsection.

(6) Money accruing to the 9-1-1 Trust Fund may not be used for:

(i) the maintenance or operation of communications centers other than public safety answering points; or

(ii) any [purpose associated with] **COSTS THAT SOLELY SUPPORT** the 9–8–8 suicide prevention hotline.

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

Approved by the Governor, April 8, 2025.