



State of Maryland
Department of State Police
Government Affairs Section
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POSITION ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION

DATE: March 10, 2020

BILL NUMBER: Senate Bill 838 **POSITION:** Letter of Information

BILL TITLE: Public Safety – 9-1-1 Emergency Telephone System

REVIEW AND ANALYSIS:

Among the many things this legislation seeks to accomplish, it seeks to alter the composition of the Maryland 9-1-1 Board. This legislation also seeks to alter the definition of a Public Safety Answering Point. This legislation seeks to “avoid transfers to public safety agencies that would adversely affect a public safety response.”

Under current law, the Maryland 9-1-1 Board is comprised of 17 members. This legislation seeks to expand the membership to 19 members. This legislation seeks to remove four members, to include the representative for the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS) and the representative of the Department of State Police (DSP) amongst others. This legislation also seeks to alter the definition of a Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) and the transmission of information outside of the PSAP.

MIEMSS and the Department of State Police are the only two statewide agencies represented on the Board. Removal of one or both could significantly impact the delivery of public safety of cross- jurisdictional or full State events.

The Department of State Police is not a defined 9-1-1 Center and receives 9-1-1 calls transferred to it from the 9-1-1 Center of the respective jurisdiction. The Department is therefore not a PSAP. The language in the bill on page 11, lines nine and 10 should be struck and replaced with “(2) FOLLOW BEST PRACTICES FOR TRANSFERRING REQUESTS TO PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCIES TO ENSURE THE OPTIMAL PUBLIC SAFETY RESPONSE.” This will allow for 9-1-1 Centers to transfer calls for emergency services to DSP barracks to ensure optimal public safety response as required.