

MARYLAND



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Emergency Number Systems Board

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January 29, 2020

The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass
Health and Government Operations
Maryland House of Delegates
241 House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: House Bill 6: Public Safety – 9-1-1 Fees – Audits

Dear Chair Pendergrass and Committee Members:

The Emergency Number Systems Board (ENSB or Board) Executive Director and several Board members serve on the Commission to Advance Next Generation 9-1-1 Across Maryland (Commission). The transfer of 9-1-1 fee auditing to the Comptroller was a recommendation of the Commission. The Comptroller is well positioned to perform these audits as they are currently auditing sales tax on the same telecommunications providers that collect and remit 9-1-1 fees.

Currently, to audit carriers for 9-1-1 fees, the ENSB would need to contract with an auditing firm to provide this service for each audit cycle.

The ENSB Office of the Executive Director's staff has met with the Comptroller's staff to discuss notifications to carriers, audit and finding processes and expected outcomes prior to this bill being drafted. Each entity has defined its role in the process, and the ENSB staff is comfortable with the proposed audit process.

If you have any questions, or if I can provide further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at (410) 339 – 6305.

Sincerely,

Scott G. Roper
Executive Director