



DATE: January 29, 2020

BILL: House Bill 44: Commission to Advance Next Generation 9-1-1 across Maryland - Extension and Alteration

COMMITTEE: Health Government and Operations Committee

POSITION: Letter of Information

Dear Chair Pendergrass,

The Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD) is pleased to write a letter of information for House Bill 44: Commission to Advance Next Generation 9-1-1 Across Maryland - Extension and Alteration. This bill extends and alters the Commission to Advance Next Generation 9-1-1 Across Maryland. MDOD has been involved in efforts to improve access to 911 services by people with disabilities who utilize assistive communication technologies.

The Secretary of MDOD, or the Secretary's designee, is a voting member of the Commission to Advance Next Generation 911 Across Maryland. The continuation of the Commission's work ensures that emerging Next Generation 911 (NG911) infrastructure and interoperability reflect the needs of the whole community, including individuals with disabilities who access 911 services using non-traditional technologies. The two annual reports issued by the Commission have contributed to Maryland's NG911 body of knowledge and included recommendations important to individuals with disabilities.

MDOD has been focusing on improved accessibility and emergency communications in the State Disabilities Plan. To that end, MDOD seeks:

- To ensure that NG911 systems are inter-operable to Assistive Technologies.
- To ensure that people with disabilities will be able to request emergency services using non-traditional devices.
- To ensure that communication technologies used by people with disabilities can be located (GPS enabled devices) in the equivalent manner as devices used by people without disabilities.
- To ensure that emerging technologies encased within NG911 core services are leveraged to improve emergency services to individuals with disabilities.
- To ensure that Video Relay Service and other Relay technologies are properly considered in the delivery of NG911 services.

If you have any questions please contact Elizabeth Hall, Director of Interagency Affairs, (410)767-3652, [elizabeth.hall2@maryland.gov](mailto:elizabeth.hall2@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol A. Beatty". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carol A. Beatty, Secretary