



**MARYLAND CHIEFS OF POLICE ASSOCIATION
MARYLAND SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION**



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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass Chair and
Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee

FROM: Chief David Morris, Co-Chair, MCPA, Joint Legislative Committee
Sheriff Darren Popkin, Co-Chair, MSA, Joint Legislative Committee
Andrea Mansfield, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee

DATE: March 10, 2021

RE: **HB 989 Public Safety – 9-1-1 Emergency Telephone System - Alterations**

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) SUPPORT HB 989. This bill is implementing recommendations from the Commission to Advance Next General 9-1-1 (NG911) Across Maryland.

NG911 creates a robust and redundant infrastructure that will deliver 9-1-1 service today and into the future. It will process all call types—including voice, text-to-9-1-1, and crash notification—as well as images and video. In addition, it will enable improved location accuracy that will allow emergency personnel to send help more quickly and allow for seamless continuity of service in the event of call overflow and when transferring 9-1-1 calls to another jurisdiction.

The changes proposed in HB 989 will further strengthen the 9-1-1 system by ensuring all regions of the State are represented on the Board, promote the recruitment of 9-1-1 specialists and allow funds from the 9-1-1 Trust Fund to be used for this purpose. MCPA and MSA believe the passage of HB 989 is needed to successfully achieve the goals of NG911.

For these reasons, MCPA and MSA SUPPORT HB 989 and URGE a FAVORABLE committee report.