



Maryland Emergency Management Association

www.marylandema.org

Joseph Theobald, *President* Michelle Lloyd, *Vice President* Shelly Gooding, *Secretary* Marianne Souders, *Treasurer*

March 7, 2022

Re: Support with Amendments - SB633 Public Safety - 9-1-1 Emergency Telephone System

Dear Senator Kagan and Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

Thank you for your continued support of emergency services and Maryland's public safety officials. **We are writing to you on behalf of the Maryland Emergency Managers Association (MDEMA) to consider amending SB633 by adding the attached draft language stating the definition of an emergency manager and adding them as recognized members of the public safety team.**

The Maryland Emergency Managers Association (MDEMA) represents the hundreds of state and local emergency management professionals across the region dedicated to advancing Maryland's emergency response capabilities, community resilience, and preparedness. Likewise, part of MDEMA's mission is to advocate for public policy that supports our members and their mission.

Emergency managers serve a crucial role in our community's emergency response capacity, including in-person preparedness, response, and recovery activities. Emergency managers are among the first to arrive at a disaster site and are always the last to leave. As demonstrated time and again - from disasters ranging from 9/11, Hurricane Katrina, Flower Branch Fire (MoCo), Ellicott City Flooding, the Baltimore Cybersecurity Attack, and COVID-19, to name a few, emergency managers, together with their fire, EMS, and law enforcement colleagues, are boots on the ground providing critical leadership, activating response plans, guiding operations, managing logistics, and directing resources. They oversee the establishment of unified leadership throughout an event and are responsible for the demobilization of staff, resources, and plans - when the time comes.

During COVID, emergency managers from government, public health sectors, private sectors, and non-profit sectors demonstrated their invaluableness to the response system day in and day out. They envisioned, built, and operated mass testing sites and vaccination clinics, coordinated the healthcare system's response, coordinated feeding operations, and provided critical leadership to our State's COVID-19 response. Our mission requires us to constantly think ahead by planning and preparing for events and support the initial response once it occurs. We also have the responsibility to lead our communities through short, intermediate, and long-term recovery efforts. There is no doubt that emergency managers are part of the operational public safety response.

As you continue to advocate for Maryland's public safety, we encourage you to promote policy recognizing emergency managers as a part of the public safety team. **We therefore strongly urge you to consider amending SB633 by adding the attached draft language.**

Respectfully Submitted,
Jonathan Bratt & Netta Squires, Co-Chairs
Legislative Affairs Committee
Maryland Emergency Managers Association
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BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Public Safety
Section 1–301
Annotated Code of Maryland

BY adding to
Article – Public Safety
Section 14–101
Annotated Code of Maryland

Article – Public Safety

1-301(j)(2).

(iv) An Emergency Manager as defined under §14-101(i) of this article.

14-101.

(i) Emergency manager. – "Emergency Manager" means an individual whose primary duties of employment are to execute the mission of emergency management as defined by subsection (d) of this section.