

# **MCPA-MSA\_SB 751 First and Emergency Responders - 9**

Uploaded by: Andrea Mansfield

Position: FAV



# Maryland Chiefs of Police Association

## Maryland Sheriffs' Association



### MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Delores Kelley, Chair and  
Members of the Finance Committee

FROM: Chief of Staff 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 8, 2022

RE: **SB 751 – First Responders and Emergency Responders - Definition - 9-1-1  
Dispatchers Included**

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **SUPPORT SB 751**. This bill would include 9-1-1 Dispatchers within the definition of first responder and emergency responder.

Dispatchers touch every single call that a First Responder handles. They also serve as a lifeline both to First Responders on the scene, and citizens on the line. Not only are 9-1-1 Dispatchers sending Law Enforcement Officers, Fire Rescue Services, Emergency Medical Services, and other public safety services to the scene of an emergency, often times they serve as a direct First Responder by giving lifesaving instructions to the caller prior to the arrival of other units.

Designating dispatchers as first responders and emergency responders also changes their status under FLSA which would allow them to work an 80 hour pay period versus a 40-hour work week. This change would allow more flexibility in scheduling without negatively affecting overtime budgets. The changing designation also increases the dispatchers comp time accrual limits in line with other public safety designees, again creating more flexibility for budgets when facing staff shortages.

Dispatchers are integral to the operation of public safety services and ensure that people can access these lifesaving services in a timely manner. 9-1-1 Dispatchers should be recognized as first responders and emergency responders.

For these reasons, MCPA and MSA **SUPPORT SB 751** and urge a **FAVORABLE** Committee report.

# **J.Ripley testimony SB751 - 911 Center Specialists**

Uploaded by: John Ripley

Position: FAV



BALTIMORE COUNTY  
FEDERATION OF  
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES  
AFT / AFL - CIO / BCFPE Local #4883

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BCFPE President  
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March 8, 2022

**RE: FAVORABLE-SB751: 911 Center Specialists reclassified as First Responders.**

Honorable Members of the Finance Committee,

First, I want to thank Senator Simonaire and Delegate Kipke for their work on this legislation.

My name is John Ripley and I am the President of The Baltimore County Federation of Public Employees who represents approximately 1500 Baltimore County Employees including 250 active Baltimore County 911 Center Employees. Over the years I have witnessed these hard-working men and women perform these highly technical jobs demonstrating countless acts of sacrifice and commitment to Public Safety. We can have the very best police and fire departments but without the 911 Center Professional, police and fire would falter. 911 Center Employees are the "TRUE" First Responders and this bill would correctly reclassify them as First Responders.

Because of this, I urge you to support **SB751**.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

President John Ripley

Baltimore County Federation of Public Employees Local #4883

**SB 751 Senator Bryan Simonaire\_FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Kara Contino

Position: FAV

**BRYAN W. SIMONAIRE**  
*Legislative District 31*  
Anne Arundel County

—  
MINORITY LEADER  
—

Education, Health, and  
Environmental Affairs Committee

*Subcommittees*

Chair, Alcohol

Health  
—

Joint Committee on the Chesapeake and  
Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area



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*The Senate of Maryland*  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Written Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 751**

Madam Chair and members of the Finance Committee, I am here to introduce and voice my support for Senate Bill 751 – *First Responders and Emergency Responders – Definition 9-1-1 Dispatchers Included*.

Senate Bill 751 would include employees who receive and process requests for emergency services and dispatch certain services to the scene of an emergency within the definitions of "first responder" and "emergency responder" in certain provisions of law.

# **SB751.pdf**

Uploaded by: Kasia Gatchalian

Position: FAV



Baltimore County Federation of Public Employees  
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<http://md.aft.org/bcfpe>



March 08, 2022

RE: FAVORABLE- SB751: 911 Center Specialists reclassified as First Responders.

Honorable Members of the HGO Committee,

My name is Kasia Gatchalian and I am the Vice President of The Baltimore County Federation of Public Employees who represents approximately 300 active and retired Baltimore County 911 Center Employees. I have worked as a 911 Call-Taker and a Police Dispatcher for 20 years and I have served as an Emergency Communications Assistant Supervisor in Police Dispatch for the last eight years. Over these years I have witnessed these hard-working men and women perform these highly technical jobs demonstrating acts of sacrifice and commitment to Public Safety. 911 Center Specialists work long hours taking emergency calls and managing field units. They listen to some of the most stressful situations many encounter, even when they are at times dealing with their own personal struggles. Whether it is helping give CPR instructions to the parent of a child not breathing or listening to officers needing additional units for shots fired, the 911 Specialist is there at the beginning offering immediate services. They sacrifice time away from family and friends to help keep the community safe. Recognizing 911 Center Specialists as First Responders would grant us access to various resources available to law enforcement officers, paramedics, EMT's and firefighters, including specialized mental health care. If 911 Center Specialists were appropriately classified as First Responders, we would be more equipped to handle the burnout and secondary traumatic stress that our job exposes us to. Additionally, we could gain access to training resources and funding that would enable us to better handle stressful situations. We can have the very best police and fire departments but without the 911 Center Specialist, police and fire would falter. 911 Center Specialists are the "TRUE" First Responders and this bill would correctly reclassify them as First Responders.

Because of this, I urge you to support SB751.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Vice President Kasia Gatchalian

Baltimore County Federation of Public Employees Local #4883



**SB0751-FIN\_MACo\_SUP.pdf**

Uploaded by: Kevin Kinnally

Position: FAV



## Senate Bill 751

### *First Responders and Emergency Responders - Definition - 9-1-1 Dispatchers Included*

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Finance Committee

Date: March 8, 2022

From: Kevin Kinnally

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 751. This bill would properly classify 9-1-1 specialists as “first responders” and “emergency responders” in specified provisions of state law.

9-1-1 specialists are the first link in the chain of safety and survival – answering, triaging, and dispatching emergency requests for assistance and providing vital life-safety and life-saving instructions to those who live, work, and travel in Maryland.

9-1-1 specialists are the first, first responders and undergo comprehensive training and certification requirements. These essential employees remain in contact with emergency scene incident commanders and other personnel on the scene of an emergency to ensure effective on-scene response, coordination, and timely resolution.

Recognizing the vital importance of their role in emergency services, SB 751 would classify 9-1-1 specialists as “first responders” and “emergency responders” in several provisions of state law. Most importantly, under current law, specified first responders are entitled to special protections from individuals that inflict physical injury during the course of the first responder’s official duties. This bill would grant those same protections to 9-1-1 specialists.

In addition, the bill would alter the provision of the Maryland Assistance Compact to include 9-1-1 specialists and ensure for necessary collaboration with the Maryland Center for School Safety.

SB 751 would properly recognize Maryland’s 9-1-1 specialists for their role in protecting the public health and well-being of shared constituents. Accordingly, MACo urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 751.

# **SB751 testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Robert Phillips

Position: FAV

# MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

REPRESENTING THE VOLUNTEER FIRE, RESCUE, AND EMS PERSONNEL OF MARYLAND.



**Robert P. Phillips**

**Chairman**

Legislative Committee

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## **SB 751 First Responders and Emergency Responders – Definition – 9-1-1 Dispatchers Included**

My name is Robert Phillips and I am the Legislative Committee Chairman for the Maryland State Firefighter's Association (MSFA).

I wish to present testimony in favor of **Senate Bill 751: First Responders and Emergency Responders – Definition – 9-1-1 Dispatchers Included**

The MSFA fully supports this bill. We feel that the 9-1-1 dispatchers are the first link in the emergency responder chain. They are the ones that get the first call for help and are the ones that the public rely on till other help arrives on scene. They are the calming voice on the other end of the black box who give the public hope. Without their assistance the other first responders would not know where to go or the emergency at hand. When in the field they provide the communication to us when we need help.

I thank the committee for their time on this important issue and ask that you favorably support Senate Bill 751..

Thank you and I would be glad to answer any questions you might have.

# **Tabitha Panasuk testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Tabitha Panasuk

Position: FAV

Tabitha Panasuk

When the worst circumstances strike and you just don't know what to do, you call 911. Every American knows 911 is how you get help, the police arrive, or firefighters, or EMTs, and they help you. But they are not the first First Responders. Your emergency must be processed through other hands, those of the dedicated professionals who answer the 911 lines and dispatch the services you need. We are the calm in the storm, we provide comfort, stability, and care to the citizens we serve until field professionals can get to the scene. Your worst day is our normal day. However, the federal government classifies us as clerical staff. Granted, there are many similarities, but they are only on the surface. 911 professionals deserve to be recognized as the First Responders that we are. Several states have already passed bills making this distinction, and I believe that the more who do so the more attention the Federal government will pay to the 911 Saves Act (H.R.2351 and S.1175) introduced by Rep. Torres (CA) and Sen. Burr (NC). I am hopeful that this recognition will improve recruitment efforts and bring desperately needed people into the industry, and that it may give us additional bargaining power when dealing with our respective cities and counties. But the most important reason to grant us this distinction is simple and costs nothing. Designating 911 professionals as First Responders grants us the respect that we earn every hour of every day of the year. Thank you.