



Senate Bill 633

Public Safety – 9-1-1 Emergency Telephone System – Alterations

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Health and Government Operations
Committee

Date: March 29, 2022

From: Kevin Kinnally

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 633. This bill would help Maryland continue its ambitious and important move toward Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG911), deliver these services equitably across the state, and generally strengthen the statutory framework that governs the state's 9-1-1 system.

In 2019, the General Assembly passed landmark legislation to update state laws and the 9-1-1 financing system to provide the flexibility and resources needed for the deployment of a statewide NG911 system that our residents expect and deserve. As Maryland accelerates its move toward NG911, it is essential to adopt policies and protocols consistent with evolving technology and operational needs.

SB 633 would streamline the process for filling vacancies on the 9-1-1 Board, which is necessary to ensure proper expertise and oversight for the shift to NG911. In addition, the bill would charge the Board with assisting local 9-1-1 centers in bolstering cybersecurity standards and developing a statewide implicit bias training program.

The bill would also update the 9-1-1 fee structure to grant counties the flexibility to impose a 9-1-1 fee sufficient to cover actual operational costs, with proper oversight from the 9-1-1 Board and Maryland Comptroller.

By bolstering the framework and resources to guide a successful statewide transition to NG911, SB 633 will enhance public safety communications in Maryland and in our local communities.

Accordingly, MACo urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 633.