

BARRY GLASSMAN
HARFORD COUNTY EXECUTIVE



EDWARD HOPKINS
DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

March 1, 2022

HB1105 and SB633

Written Testimony in SUPPORT

Randall J Cunningham
Harford County Department of Emergency Services
2220 Ady Rd
Forest Hill MD 21050

Good afternoon members of the House and Senate

My name is Randall Cunningham, and for the past year two years, I have been the chairman of the Cybersecurity and Technology subcommittee of the Maryland Next Generation 9-1-1 Commission, and I am also a Technology Manager for Harford County Department of Emergency Services.

I would like to provide some further insight into HB1105 which is also cross filed with SB633, Public Safety – 9-1-1 Emergency Telephone System – Alterations.

This bill addresses several facets of the 9-1-1 system in the state. 9-1-1 is commonly known as the 3-digit number to call or text for help, but the system that supports 9-1-1, what happens “behind the curtain” and out of sight to everyone using this number, is crucial to saving lives and property every day.

Page 2, line 22 will add 9-1-1 Specialist to the list of First Responder’s. 9-1-1 Specialists are commonly referred to as the “1st, First Responder”. Without these highly trained individuals answering the phones, the firefighters, paramedics, and law enforcement officers would never be dispatched to the incident, lifesaving instructions would never be given to callers on scene, instructions that are crucial to saving the lives of people who need help. Adding 9-1-1 Specialists to this list of First Responders will allow this position to be recognized and supported for the important work they do as part of the public safety community.

Page 7, Line 21, ensures that the Maryland 9-1-1 Board remains fully staffed as well as ensuring compliance by PSAP’s in the important areas of both training and cybersecurity. There have been many requirements recently added to the growing list of items that a PSPA must comply with. Ensuring that the 9-1-1 board is fully staffed, and able to assist PSAP’s with meeting these requirements is crucial to the 9-1-1 ecosystem.

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Page 10, Line 16, further clarifies the roles and requirements of the audits being completed by the comptroller's office for the 9-1-1 fees that are collected. These fees are a critical and necessary funding source to provide the PSAP's in the state with the funds they need to continue to operate.

I encourage you to support HB1105/SB633 and support our 9-1-1 system, our 9-1-1 specialists who work every day of the year, and the entire 9-1-1 community in our great state.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randall L. Cunningham", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Randall L. Cunningham
Public Safety Manager
Harford County Government