

SB0083: Criminal Law - Public Safety - Interference with a Public Safety  
Answering Point - Penalties

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My name is William Ferretti. I am a former 9-1-1 Director for Montgomery County. I also had the pleasure to serve on the Commission to Advance NG911 Across Maryland, first as a member of the Commission and then after my retirement from the County, as an advisor.

Cybersecurity was a key focus area for the Commission during its four years of work. Defending Maryland's 9-1-1 centers from the increasing levels of Cybersecurity risks, such as Telephony Denial of Service (TDoS) and Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attacks, requires a multi-faceted approach. Previous Commission recommendations have led to updates to Maryland Law and the enactment of strong Cybersecurity policies put in place through the Maryland 9-1-1 Board.

Yet there remains a gap in state Criminal Law that needs to be closed. Current laws do not contain enough of a deterrent to discourage bad actors intent on interfering with the operations of Maryland's 9-1-1 centers. Their actions, left unchecked, can lead to significant harm to the residents and visitors of Maryland by causing interruptions to public safety responses to life threatening emergencies.

SB0083 is the answer to closing that gap and I strongly urge you to support SB0083 with a favorable recommendation.



William Ferretti