

SB0083-JPR_MACo_SUP.pdf

Uploaded by: Kevin Kinnally

Position: FAV



Senate Bill 83

Criminal Law – Public Safety – Interference with a Public Safety Answering Point – Penalties

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Judicial Proceedings Committee

Date: January 19, 2022

From: Kevin Kinnally

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 83. This bill would bolster state laws to protect against sophisticated cyber-attacks that pose a significant threat to the security and stability of Maryland's 9-1-1 system.

In 2019, the General Assembly passed Carl Henn's Law, 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 Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG911) system that Maryland residents expect and deserve. As Maryland accelerates its move toward NG911, proper safeguards are necessary to protect against new and evolving cyber threats, including denial-of-service attacks and intrusions by malicious hackers.

SB 83 generally prohibits any actions that intend to interrupt or impair the functioning of a 9-1-1 center. Under the bill, if an individual commits a prohibited act that intends to interrupt the operations of a 9-1-1 center, the person is guilty of a felony and subject to imprisonment for up to five years and/or a fine up to \$25,000. In addition, if an individual perpetrates an illegal act that disrupts the operations of a 9-1-1 center, the violator is guilty of a felony, punishable by imprisonment for up to ten years and/or a \$50,000 maximum fine.

Hackers are increasingly targeting state and local governments – including public safety agencies – with sophisticated cyberattacks that can jeopardize sensitive information and disrupt emergency services. By strengthening state laws to protect against growing and evolving cyber threats, SB 83 would enhance public safety communications in Maryland and in our local communities.

Accordingly, MACo urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 83.

SB83 - Cunningham Testimony - 2022 MGA.pdf

Uploaded by: Lawrence Richardson

Position: FAV



January 14, 2022

Senate Bill 83 (SB0083)

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 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 SB0057, Criminal Law – Public Safety – Interference With a Public Safety Answering Points.

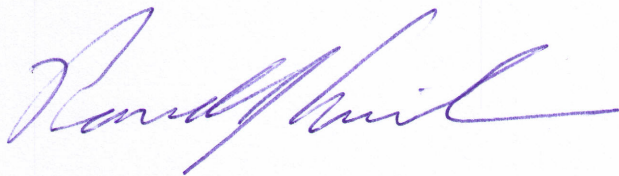
Over the past 20 years supporting 9-1-1 in Harford County, I have witnessed significant changes from what was previously a very simple procedure of a resident calling for help, to what is progressing to be a very highly technical system, interconnected, and communicating across jurisdictions, and states.

9-1-1 services in Maryland dates to 1979, and so do some of the laws protecting this service from criminal activity intended to harm or disrupt this service. The method of delivering these emergency calls to PSAP's (Public Safety Answering Point's, also known as "9-1-1 Center's") also has not changed since then, until recently when PSAP's have begun installing and using new technology, broadly known as "Next Generation 9-1-1", or NG9-1-1 as it is commonly referred to.

These new call delivery systems are highly technical, IP data networks that can handle not only voice calls, but also receive important data such as text messages, automated crash data, and other IP Data information. Unfortunately, this type of technology also allows for a much broader methods of using the 9-1-1 system to request help. No longer do you have to pick up and phone and dial those 3 digits that may wind up saving your life, or a loved one's life, you can also send a text message, or have your watch call for help, after it has detected a medical emergency.

We have all witnessed attempts to infect and disable computer networks in every area of today's infrastructure. We must protect our Public Safety infrastructure from these attempts and establish penalties for those attempting to do so. In today's world the community expects to be able to communicate with 9-1-1 and public safety services and always have that system available.

The systems and technologies that allow that level of communication, unfortunately, also allows those with malicious intent to use those same systems as a pathway to cause harm and disruption. By supporting Senate Bill 83, you are allowing law enforcement and the judicial system to prosecute those malicious actors.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Randall Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

SB83 - Cunningham Testitfy.pdf

Uploaded by: Randall Cunningham

Position: FAV



January 14, 2022

Senate Bill 83 (SB0083)

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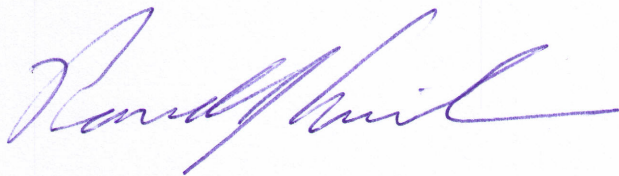
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SB83 Written Testimony - FAVORABLE - MDEM.pdf

Uploaded by: Russell Strickland

Position: FAV

SUPPORT

SB0083 - Criminal Law - Public Safety - Interference With a Public Safety Answering Point

Written Testimony of Acting Secretary Russell J. Strickland
Maryland Department of Emergency Management
Committee: Judicial Proceedings
Hearing Date: 19 January 2022

Senate Bill 0083 is a crucial step toward protecting access to critical emergency services for Maryland residents. This bill will criminalize actions taken intentionally to disrupt the operations of Maryland's Public Safety Answering Points (also known as 9-1-1 Centers), the universal access point to emergency services. The Maryland Department of Emergency Management, home to the Maryland 9-1-1 Board, recognizes the importance of this bill and we respectfully request a **favorable report**.

Public Safety Answering Points are critical in the chain of public safety response in Maryland. The current statute specifies penalties for interference with other critical services including State government, public utilities, healthcare facilities and public schools. Public Safety Answering Points should be added to this statute to ensure any individual seeking to disrupt the first node in our life-saving emergency services system are penalized and held accountable.

In summary, the Maryland Department of Emergency Management respectfully requests a **favorable report** on Senate Bill 0083.

SB83_ 9-1-1 TDOS & DDOS Protections Testimony.docx

Uploaded by: Sen. Cheryl Kagan

Position: FAV

CHERYL C. KAGAN
Legislative District 17
Montgomery County

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Education, Health, and
Environmental Affairs Committee

Joint Audit Committee
Joint Committee on Federal Relations



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

SB83: Criminal Law - Public Safety - Interference with a Public Safety Answering Point

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
Wednesday, January 19, 2022 | 1pm

This legislation came before the Judicial Proceedings Committee in both [2020](#) and [2021](#). After meeting with Committee Counsel over the summer, we have narrowed the scope of the legislation to better address the issue of disrupting and dismantling a 9-1-1 Center.

Nationwide, individuals have attempted to or successfully interfered with government systems and networks, including 9-1-1 Centers.

If PSAPs are interrupted, people cannot access life-saving services.

A resident and activist from my legislative district, Carl Henn, died because 9-1-1 was overwhelmed when he was in need. His death was the impetus for the NG911 Commission which I have chaired for the last four years.

The number of cyberattacks, including Telephone Denial of Service (TDoS) and Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS), that cause damage have greatly increased in recent years. During the COVID-19 pandemic, bad actors have specifically targeted health and safety institutions. In the 3rd quarter of 2021, there was an average of over [1,000 DDoS attacks per day](#). A cyberattack that took place less than a month ago continues to impact services through the Maryland Department of Health. This was followed by a DDoS attempt and had significant effects on COVID-19 data sharing; vaccination records; licensure of nurses; Medicaid benefits; patient admission and discharge; and other areas critical to residents' health.

Unfortunately, these incidents are not new. In March of 2018, Baltimore's 9-1-1 Center was hacked. For 17 hours, incoming calls were not able to be relayed electronically to dispatchers and instead had to be manually managed by call center support.

Current Maryland law does not criminalize the interruption or interference of 9-1-1 Centers. Based on the recommendations of The NG911 Commission, I am sponsoring SB83 to better equip Maryland against these dangerous attacks by establishing penalties for these crimes. These include:

- Attempted 9-1-1 Center interruption: guilty of a felony, and upon conviction, subject to imprisonment not exceeding five years and/or a fine of up to \$25,000.
- Successful 9-1-1 Center interruption: guilty of a felony, and upon conviction, subject to imprisonment not exceeding ten years and/or a fine of up to \$50,000.

I urge a favorable report on SB83.

testimony for bill 83.pdf

Uploaded by: Tenea Reddick

Position: FAV

Good Afternoon, My name is Tenea Reddick. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be here and testify on a bill that will protect the 911 centers in Maryland – thus protecting every resident and visitor in Maryland. I am the 911 director for the City of Baltimore. Every minute of everyday, our incredible 911 Specialists put their headset on, log into sophisticated computer systems, and protect our communities -non stop. Yes, I said sophisticated computer systems- In Maryland - We are 911 centers of the future. Call after call – Mothers giving birth, Car accidents, people trapped in fires, robberies, incidents involving violence, and it goes on and on... The callers voice, the connection, the data, the locations, the software, the nearest paramedic... Its all computers and networks – and we must protect these components as much as we protect the people. Baltimore City's 911 center was the victim of a cyber attack in 2018 – While I can't go into specifics, I can confidently say that cyber attacks and the disruption of our vital computer systems at 911 places an enormous amount of stress on the 911 center and on every 911 specialist still taking emergency calls and protecting our communities. An attack can bring a center back 50 years – taking away important technology used to save lives. We never want this to happen to any center – ever.

Again, we are the 911 centers of the future. Phone lines are equipment of the past –(and you once protected them). Computers and networks are the equipment of the future – and we must protect these with everything we have. Therefore I recommend that Senate Bill 83 move forward to help all of us continue to save lives. Thank you.

Ferretti - Written Testimony SB0083.pdf

Uploaded by: William Ferretti

Position: FAV

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

Wednesday, January 19, 2022, 1:00 PM

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.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Will Ferretti", with a stylized flourish at the end.

William Ferretti