

SB0340: Criminal Law – Public Safety – Communications With Public Safety
Answering Points

Tuesday, February 21, 2023, 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.

The delivery of Public Safety Services to the public is one of the most important functions of local government. Effective Public Safety responses to those in need start with the first of the first responders in Maryland's 9-1-1 centers. Unfortunately, we as a state and a country have to contend with the phenomena known as SWATTING- intentionally providing fake information through a 9-1-1 center or public safety agency in order to garner an elevated police response, usually in an attempt to get SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) teams to be sent to the address of an innocent person.

Current Maryland Criminal Law is insufficient to deter these acts that have the potential to lead to serious bodily injury, severe emotional distress, and even death of a person, whether that be to a first responder or member of the public.

I urge you to support SB0340 with a favorable recommendation.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'William Ferretti', with a stylized flourish at the end.

William Ferretti