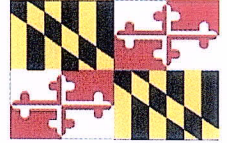




CLYDE BOATWRIGHT
STATE PRESIDENT

Maryland State Lodge
FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

8302 COVE ROAD, BALTIMORE, MD 21222



KENNY SCHUBERT
SECRETARY

EARL KRATSCH
TREASURER

February 23, 2024

SB 540 – Education – School Mapping Data Program – Established

Dear Chair Feldman and Distinguished Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

The Maryland State Fraternal Order of Police **SUPPORTS Senate Bill 540 – Education – School Mapping Data Program – Established.**

Senate Bill 540 seeks to create a school mapping data program. This program would provide funds to County Boards of Education who, in consultation with their local law enforcement agency, seek to fund the digital or electronic mapping of all public schools in their County.

SB 540 further seeks to require that the mapping data shall be compatible with the software platforms used by the law enforcement agencies that provide emergency services to the schools without requiring additional software or being charged fees to view. **SB 540** also sets out other parameters for the software as well as specific design specifications and labeling that matches the structure of the school and is verified for accuracy by a walk of the school building and grounds.

In responding to the large structures and grounds that are our public schools, to have the ability to pinpoint a location, in a time of need for an injured person, up to the more complex issues faced during life threatening attacks, such as active shooters, bomb threats, or hostage situations, having the ability to accurately and rapidly respond is immeasurable. As we have seen to often in the news, threats in schools are on the rise and time is of the essence when mounting any kind of response or rescue. Having a mapping system that can be integrated and displayed in real time with the software used by public safety will allow for the quick, rapid, and pinpointed responses that are required in order to save lives, end a situation, or get to an injured person or location within the school as quick as possible. This is an essential tool that should be mandated and made available for use.

A **FAVORABLE** vote on **SB 540** will allow for the funding and creation of a crucial piece of information to first responders engaging in a rapid response to a critical incident at a public school. To have an interactive and accurate map of a school and its grounds is essential to ensure a rapid response to the exact location where services are needed. It also allows for the proper deployment of personnel on a large-scale event which will not only save lives but bring a quick and rapid end to any life-threatening attacks.

On behalf of the more than 20,000 Courageous Men and Women of the Maryland Fraternal Order of Police we thank you for your support and ask for your **FAVORABLE** vote on **Senate Bill 540 - Education – School Mapping Data Program – Established.**

Angelo L. Consoli Jr,
2nd Vice President, FOP, Maryland State Lodge
President, FOP Lodge 89, Prince George's County