



Senate Bill 649

Public Safety Answering Point Personnel - Training in Telecommunications Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Education, Energy, and the Environment
Committee

Date: February 22, 2024

From: Kevin Kinnally

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 649. This bill requires the Maryland 9-1-1 Board to establish training standards for public safety answering point personnel based on national best practices for high-quality telecommunicator cardiopulmonary resuscitation (T-CPR). In addition, the bill clarifies that any local expenditures for counties that provide T-CPR training are reimbursable by the 9-1-1 Trust Fund.

Every year in the United States, more than 350,000 people have a sudden cardiac arrest outside of a hospital environment. Sudden cardiac arrest is the unexpected loss of heart function, breathing, and consciousness and is commonly the result of an electric disturbance in the heart.

Unfortunately, only 1 in 10 victims survive this dramatic event.

A critical intervention strongly associated with survival is cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), started by a bystander. When CPR begins before the arrival of emergency medical services (EMS) personnel, the individual in cardiac arrest has a two- to three-fold higher likelihood of survival.

One way to ensure CPR is provided quickly is for 9-1-1 specialists to give instant instructions with telecommunicator CPR. T-CPR allows bystander CPR to begin – it works by keeping the brain and heart alive until EMS arrives to provide defibrillation and other vital interventions. T-CPR can assist the untrained caller and remind the CPR-trained caller how to provide high-quality CPR.

SB 649 ensures critical training for 9-1-1 specialists, so they can assist a caller in providing CPR. The provisions in this bill will save lives and keep communities safe. Accordingly, MACo urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 649.