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Joint Audit and Evaluation Committee  
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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Public Safety Answering Point Personnel - Training in T-CPR (SB649)**

Senate Education, Energy, & the Environment Committee: February 22, 2024, 1:00pm

When a loved one is having a medical emergency, we all know that we should call 9-1-1. But then we wait. In many parts of our State, EMS response times can be 10 minutes or longer.<sup>1</sup> Rain, wind, snow, and ice can delay the arrival of First Responders because of hazardous road conditions. Too often, help does not arrive in time.

Roughly 350,000 Americans die every year from out-of-hospital cardiac arrest.<sup>2</sup> “The chance of survival from cardiac arrest decreases by 10% with every minute that passes without CPR,” says Dr. Kevin Seaman, medical director for the Charles County’s 9-1-1 Center and EMS program. “The process of getting units started, getting units to the scene, starting CPR, defibrillation— that can take nine minutes, or even longer.” But telecommunications CPR-- or T-CPR--, the virtual instruction by a specialist on the steps of performing CPR, saves lives. According to the American Heart Association, “When CPR begins prior to the arrival of emergency medical services personnel, the person in cardiac arrest has a two to three-fold higher likelihood of survival.”

[SB649](#) includes quarterly one-on-one continuing T-CPR education for county 9-1-1 Specialists as an authorized expenditure of the 9-1-1 Trust Fund. This will allow the Fund to help train 9-1-1 Specialists across Maryland on best practices for saving lives.

This bill was motivated by a T-CPR pilot program conducted in Charles County. Due to this program, the number of cardiac arrest survivors more than doubled, at a cost of just \$26,000 per year to train all 40 9-1-1 Specialists on staff. This bill will increase the potential for any county that opts in to see results like those in Charles County-- potentially saving the lives of hundreds of Marylanders each year.

In collaboration with the Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM) and the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS), I am introducing an amendment to this bill that will remove specific training directions, as these are broadly included in current law.

**I urge a favorable report on SB649, as amended.**

<sup>1</sup> Dance, Olivia. “Allegany County EMS Records Fastest 911 Response Times in County History.” WBBF, March 16, 2023. <https://foxbaltimore.com/news/local/allegany-county-ems-records-fastest-911-response-times-in-county-history>.

<sup>2</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. “Cardiac Arrest | Cdc.gov,” May 30, 2023. <https://www.cdc.gov/heartdisease/cardiac-arrest.htm#:~:text=More%20than%20356%2C000%20people%20have>.