



TO: The Honorable Vanessa E. Atterbeary, Chair and Members of the Ways and Means Committee.

FROM: Dan Craigie, Director of Government Strategy, GeoComm

DATE: March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024

RE: SB 540 – Education – School Mapping Data Program - Established

POSITION: Letter of Information

GeoComm commends the State of Maryland on their efforts to implement a school mapping initiative in order to provide situational awareness during school emergencies. Several states have implemented similar programs including the State of Iowa who selected GeoComm to build indoor maps of every public school in the state. This provides First Responders with valuable contextual information during an emergency and can decrease their response time, thus potentially saving lives.

As this program is established and matures, we encourage the Maryland Center for School Safety and Interagency Commission on School Construction to solicit the opinions and expertise of a multitude of vendors and stakeholders within school safety and indoor mapping. There's concern that the stated requirements do not reflect the needs of public safety emergency communications, where GeoComm has almost 30 years of experience providing applications and services to thousands of public safety agencies across the country.

As further requirements are developed, we'd encourage the following items be addressed:

1. Ownership of the data should be retained by the building owner with full rights to copy, display, distribute, transmit and adapt for all lawful purposes including sharing with government and/or private entities that are providing or supporting emergency services.
2. Sharing of the data should be done via a secured and authenticated application programming interface (API) and go through an approval process to alleviate any data or privacy concerns.
3. Symbology should adhere to the National Association of Public Safety GIS (NAPSG) guidelines to ensure consistency across the emergency communications ecosystem.
4. The map data should have the ability to provide near-real time updates by building owners where changes are automatically disseminated to emergency responders and 9-1-1 mapping applications using existing data standards in order to ensure the most up-to-date information.

5. The data must be compatible with the National Emergency Number Association's latest Civic Location Data Exchange Format (CLDXF) standard to ensure interoperability with 9-1-1 and other public safety applications.

GeoComm is a trusted partner in Maryland with dozens of clients across the state and we look forward to contributing further within the School Mapping Data Program.

Thank you for taking the time to review this information as you consider Senate Bill 540.

Respectfully,

Dan Craigie  
Director of Government Strategy