

CHERYL C. KAGAN  
Legislative District 17  
Montgomery County

---

Vice Chair  
Education, Energy, and  
the Environment Committee

---

Joint Audit and Evaluation Committee

Joint Committee on Federal Relations



Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Suite 2 West  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3134  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3134  
Cheryl.Kagan@senate.state.md.us

## THE SENATE OF MARYLAND ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

### **SB759: Supporting Our 9-1-1 Specialists Act**

Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

Thursday, March 6, 2025 1:00 PM

9-1-1 Specialists are the critical link between callers and public safety responders (e.g., police, firefighters, and paramedics). They remain in constant contact with the Incident Commander and other emergency personnel, ensuring effective on-scene response, coordination, and timely resolution.

As the first line of response when an individual is in need of assistance during an emergency, the critical decisions made during these calls can save lives.

These professionals undergo comprehensive training to be certified as Emergency Medical Dispatchers (EMDs) and face intense trauma from their work. The emotional toll is significant, as reflected by the [estimated 20% rate of PTSD](#). We are already experiencing difficulty recruiting for these positions; the high-stress nature of the job and increasing workload demands makes it difficult to attract, train, and retain skilled professionals in these roles.

[SB759](#) would include our courageous women and men under the headset in a retirement income tax subtraction modification which is already available to other public safety employees. Specifically, it would allow eligible retirees (ages [55 and older](#)) to subtract up to \$15,000 of their retirement income from their Maryland adjusted gross income.

The Comptroller's Office has said that they can implement the bill's change with existing budgeted resources.

These individuals are dedicated to public safety. This bill offers an opportunity to show our gratitude for the service, dedication, and sacrifices of our 9-1-1 Specialists while making this profession more sustainable for those who answer the call.

**I urge a favorable report on SB759.**