

SB 138 - FAV - MDEM.pdf

Uploaded by: Anna Sierra

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Governor | Wes Moore Lt. Governor | Aruna Miller Secretary | Russell J. Strickland

FAVORABLE - SB 138
**Public Safety - Maryland 9-1-1 Board and Maryland Department of Emergency Management -
Regulatory Authority**

Education, Energy, and the Environment

Maryland Department of Emergency Management
Hearing Date: 23 JAN 2025

The Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM) writes today in support of **SB 138 - Public Safety - Maryland 9-1-1 Board and Maryland Department of Emergency Management - Regulatory Authority**.

SB 138 will restore regulatory authority to the Maryland 9-1-1 Board, which the Board had prior to updates to the statute made between 2018 and 2021. The Board has an active chapter in COMAR ([12.11.03 9-1-1 Emergency Telephone System](#)) but is unable to update outdated portions of the regulations, or issue new regulations in support of enhancing Maryland's 9-1-1 system.

The bill will also give regulatory authority to the Department of Emergency Management, which does not currently have the ability to issue regulations outside of those that would apply to the State Disaster Recovery Fund. This bill will allow the Department to establish a new title within COMAR and move the Emergency Telephone System under the Department's title. General regulatory authority will also provide the Department with the ability to, as needed, establish regulations which enhance the state's emergency management system.

In conclusion, the Maryland Department of Emergency Management respectfully requests a favorable report on **SB 138 - Public Safety - Maryland 9-1-1 Board and Maryland Department of Emergency Management - Regulatory Authority**. If you have any questions, please contact Anna Sierra, MDEM legislative liaison: anna.sierra1@maryland.gov.

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Uploaded by: Preeti Emrick

Position: FAV



COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGERS AFFILIATE

LETTER IN SUPPORT OF SB 138 / HB 423

PUBLIC SAFETY – MARYLAND 9–1–1 BOARD AND MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT – REGULATORY AUTHORITY

EDUCATION, ENERGY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

JANUARY 21, 2025

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo.) Emergency Managers Affiliate **SUPPORTS SB 138 - PUBLIC SAFETY – MARYLAND 9–1–1 BOARD AND MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT – REGULATORY AUTHORITY**. This bill authorizes the 9-1-1 Board to establish regulations for implementing and enforcing certain duties and permits the Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM) to adopt regulations necessary to fulfill its responsibilities.

The 9-1-1 system plays a vital role in public safety by connecting Maryland residents with emergency services. Ensuring that the 9-1-1 Board has the regulatory authority to carry out its responsibilities effectively will enhance its ability to adapt to evolving technologies, address operational challenges, and maintain high standards of service. By enabling the Board to establish clear and enforceable regulations, this bill provides a framework for improving coordination, accountability, and responsiveness across the state's emergency communications systems.

Moreover, granting MDEM the authority to adopt necessary regulations ensures a cohesive approach to emergency management. As disasters and emergencies grow more complex, this measure equips MDEM with the tools to address emerging threats and support local jurisdictions in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from natural and human-caused disasters.

This bill represents an opportunity to strengthen Maryland's emergency response infrastructure and ensure the safety and well-being of its residents. Thus, the Emergency Managers Affiliate asks this Committee to give **SB 138** a **FAVORABLE** report.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:
Preeti Emrick
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Preeti Emrick, JD, CHEC

President, MACo. EM Affiliate
Director, Anne Arundel County
Office of Emergency Management

Testimony - MDEM Regulatory Authority.pdf

Uploaded by: Sen. Cheryl Kagan

Position: FAV

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Vice Chair
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Joint Audit and Evaluation Committee
Joint Committee on Federal Relations

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

SB138: MDEM Regulatory Authority
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Thursday, January 23, 2025 1:00 PM

In 2021, I sponsored [SB658](#), which passed both chambers unanimously. This bill elevated the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) to become the Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM)-- a Cabinet-level office.

However, the Department was unintentionally not given the ability to adopt regulations to implement and enforce existing laws surrounding their charge, which [SB138](#) would grant. It would also restore the regulatory authority previously held by the Maryland 9-1-1 Board.

This bill was requested by MDEM.

I urge a favorable report on SB138.