



Maryland Occupational Therapy Association

PO Box 36401, Towson, Maryland 21286 ♦ mota-members.com

Committee: House Health and Government Operations Committee

Bill Number: House Bill 421

Title: Public Safety - 9-1-1 Trust Fund - 9-8-8 Suicide Prevention Hotline

Hearing Date: February 11, 2025

Position: Support

The Maryland Occupational Therapy Association (MOTA) supports *House Bill 421 – Public Safety - 9-1-1 Trust Fund - 9-8-8 Suicide Prevention Hotline*. The bill will allow money in the 9–1–1 Trust Fund to be used for costs related to the operation of the 9–8–8 suicide prevention hotline that may be shared with 9–1–1 activities, including software interfaces and joint training.

Occupational therapy plays a vital role in mental health care by improving daily function, reducing stress and anxiety, and supporting social participation. Mental health occupational therapy helps patients develop and maintain positive mental health, prevent poor mental health, and recover from mental health challenges in order to live full and productive lives. The 9-8-8 suicide prevention hotline is funded by the 9-8-8 Trust Fund, however money in the Fund is expected to decrease substantially in 2026. This bill will help ensure that the life-saving services provided by the hotline continue to be funded and accessible to Marylanders in need.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any further information, please contact Michael Paddy at mpaddy@policypartners.net.