



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**HB13 - Income Tax - Subtraction Modification - Public Safety Employee
Retirement Income House**

Ways and Means Committee
Thursday, January 29th - 1:00 pm

Chair Wilkins, Vice Chair Feldmark, and Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

9-1-1 Specialists are the critical link between Marylanders in crisis and the first responders rushing to the scene. In moments of chaos and fear, they are the calm, trained professionals who gather lifesaving information, provide immediate guidance to callers in distress, and remain in constant communication with incident commanders to ensure effective coordination and timely resolution of emergencies. The decisions they make, often in just seconds, can mean the difference between life and death.

Despite serving as the first line of response in nearly every emergency, 9-1-1 Specialists are not treated equitably in retirement. Unlike other public safety professionals, these workers are currently excluded from the public safety retirement income tax subtraction afforded to peers.

HB 0013 corrects this disparity by expanding eligibility for the public safety retirement income tax subtraction to include 9-1-1 Specialists. Under this bill, eligible retirees age 55 and older would be able to subtract up to \$15,000 of their retirement income from their Maryland adjusted gross income—bringing 9-1-1 Specialists in line with other public safety employees.

HB 0013 ensures that 9-1-1 Specialists can retire with the dignity, fairness, and respect they have earned through decades of service under extraordinary pressure. These professionals dedicate their careers to protecting the lives of others. This bill is a clear and meaningful way for Maryland to recognize that service and say thank you.

I respectfully urge the Committee to issue a favorable report on HB 0013.