

9-1-1 Legislation of Note for the Maryland 9-1-1 Board

Legislation Introduced as of 26 March 2025

The 2025 Maryland General Assembly session ended on April 7, 2025. The session saw the introduction of **1047 Senate bills** and **1558 House bills**. The focus of the session included the State's fiscal situation, impacts of federal actions on Maryland's economy and workforce, and other standard issues like housing, the environment, and education.

Bill signings are scheduled throughout April and May, with May 27 last day for the Governor to veto or sign bills into law. Any bills not signed or vetoed by that date will pass into law.

Session Highlights - 9-1-1

- SB 36/HB421 - 9-1-1/9-8-8 Trust Fund bill allowing the enhanced interoperability and coordination between the two systems to be funded by 9-1-1 Trust Fund dollars
- SB 138/HB423 - Regulatory Authority for 9-1-1 Board and Department of Emergency Management
- SB 396 - Death Benefits for Public Safety Officers, which will add 9-1-1 specialists to the list of eligible public safety officers and add PTSD and related acute stress disorders to eligible benefit conditions

Terminology

The General Assembly uses different terminology to indicate the bill's status as passed, but unless a bill is vetoed by the Governor, the terminology does not impact whether the bill becomes law or not. The following terms all indicate passage by the General Assembly:

- *Approved by the Governor*: The Governor signed the bill into law
 - *Chapter Number* is the number the Secretary of State assigns to a bill after the Governor signs the bill. Chapter numbers are issued in the numerical order in which the bills are signed.
- *Passed Enrolled*: Bills that passed which were amended in the opposite chamber
- *Return Passed*: A bill passed its original chamber and is passed by the opposite chamber without amendment

Approved by the Governor

[SB396 - Public Safety Officer - Performance of Duties - Death and Disability Benefits](#)

- Sponsor(s): Del. Lehman, et al; Sen. McKay
- Amended to remove any disability provisions of the original bill. 9-1-1 specialists remain in the bill and families would be eligible for death benefits as outlined in the bill.

[SB36/HB421 - Public Safety - 9-1-1 Trust Fund - 9-8-8 Suicide Prevention Hotline](#)

- Sponsor(s): Sen. Kagan & Augustine; Del. S. Johnson, et al
- Removes current restrictions on using 9-1-1 trust fund dollars to “touch” 9-8-8 in any way.
- Remains within the control of the counties and 9-1-1 Board how those dollars are used, but will provide increased flexibility for counties to use 9-1-1 dollars to enhance integration and interoperability of 911 and 988 functions.

[HB 1027/SB 775 - Workgroup to Study Implementation of a Statewide 3-1-1 Nonemergency Telephone System](#)

- Sponsor(s): Sen. Kagan; Del. Kerr
- Amended to require DoIT to convene a workgroup, which will include MDEM and the 9-1-1 Board, to conduct a feasibility study on 3-1-1

[SB138/HB423 - Public Safety - Maryland 9-1-1 Board and Maryland Department of Emergency Management - Regulatory Authority](#)

- Sponsor: Sen. Kagan (by request from the Department of Emergency Management); Del. Lopez
- Re-establishes regulatory authority to the 9-1-1 Board
- Establishes regulatory authority for the Department more broadly

Returned Passed/Passed Enrolled

[HB 445/SB 81 - Criminal Law - Interference With a Public Safety Answering Point - Penalties](#)

- Sponsor: Sen. Kagan; Del. Hill
- Prohibits a person from taking actions with intent to interrupt or impair the functioning of a public safety answering point
- Makes intent to or successful interruption/impairment of a 9-1-1 system a felony subject of up to 5 years in jail, a \$25,000 fine, or both

Did Not Pass

[HB 106/SB805 - Public Safety - 9-1-1 Emergency Telephone System - Definition of First Responders](#)

- Sponsor(s): Del. Harris; Sen. Jackson and Brooks
- Adds three DOT job types to the definition of first responder in the 9-1-1 Board Statute:
 - Emergency response technician employed by the Department of Transportation
 - Facility maintenance technician employed by the Department of Transportation
 - A vehicle services and recovery technician employed by the Department of Transportation

[HB 316 - Public Safety - 9-1-1 Emergency Telephone System - 9-1-1 Technician](#)

- Sponsor: Del. Grammer
- Adds “9-1-1 technician” to the definition of individuals who are considered 9-1-1 specialist

[HB 444 - Criminal Law - Interference with Critical Infrastructure or a Public Safety Answering Point - Penalties](#)

- Sponsor: Del. Hill
- Prohibits a person from taking actions with intent to interrupt or impair the functioning of a public safety answering point or critical infrastructure.
- Makes intent to or successful interruption/impairment of a 9-1-1 system or critical infrastructure a felony subject of up to 5 years in jail, a \$25,000 fine, or both
- Defines critical infrastructure as:
 - “systems and assets, whether physical or virtual, that are so vital to the State, a county, or a municipality that the incapacity or destruction of one or more components would have a debilitating impact on (i) public security; (ii) economic security; (iii) public health; or (iv) public safety.”

[HB 1002 - Consumer and Display Fireworks - Regulation and Tax](#)

- Sponsor(s): Del. Hornberger, et al
- Authorizes the sale and possession of certain fireworks via a permitting process under OSFM
- Implements a sales and use tax for fireworks which would be split between the general fund, the Amoss Fund, and the 9-1-1 Trust Fund.

[HB 1361 - Public Safety - Law Enforcement Agencies - Standardized Report Writing System \(Maryland Statewide Law Enforcement Report Writing Standardization Act\)](#)

- Sponsor(s): Del. Bhandari
- Requires the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission to create a standardized report writing system for all law enforcement in the State
- LEAs must implement standardized reporting system within 18 months

- Legislative intent is to “enhance the collaboration and exchange of information between law enforcement agencies, improve data accuracy, and ensure efficient resource use in criminal investigations and report.”[Pg. 2, lines 7-11]
- Specifies that the Automated Accident Reporting System should be used as a model [p. 2, lines 16-18]

Budget

The General Assembly passed the budget prior to Sine Die and without requiring an extension of session. The 9-1-1 Board had no significant changes to its budget through either the budget or Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act (BRFA).

Questions?

Contact Anna Sierra, legislative liaison for MDEM, anna.sierra1@maryland.gov.