



## House Bill 44

*Commission to Advance Next Generation 9-1-1 Across Maryland –  
Extension and Alteration*

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Health and Government Operations Committee

Date: January 29, 2020

From: Kevin Kinnally

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 44. This bill will help Maryland continue its move toward Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG911), deliver these services equitably across the state, and assure effective coordination with communications providers.

In 2019, the General Assembly passed Carl Henn's Law, landmark legislation to update state laws and the 9-1-1 financing system to provide the flexibility and resources needed for the deployment of a statewide NG911 system that our residents expect and deserve. As Maryland accelerates its move toward NG911, proper oversight is necessary to guide this critical transition, harnessing public safety leadership and expertise to address complex public safety concerns.

HB 44 extends the sunset for the Commission to Advance Next Generation 9-1-1 Across Maryland in order to monitor and report on the progress toward the implementation and evolution of NG911. Specifically, the Commission will assess the revised financing structure and its propriety for next-generation demands, ensure all applicable fees and charges are properly remitted to the State and local jurisdictions, recommend policies to protect against cybersecurity threats, and evaluate the overall implementation of Carl Henn's Law.

By providing the proper framework and resources to guide a successful statewide transition to NG911, HB 44 will enhance public safety communications in Maryland and in our local communities.

Accordingly, MACo urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 44.