



House Bill 634

Commission to Advance Next Generation 9-1-1 Across Maryland - Establishment

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Health & Government Operations Committee

Date: February 21, 2018

From: Kevin Kinnally

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 634. This bill would help Maryland prepare for the deployment of a statewide Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG911) system that our residents expect and deserve.

Specifically, HB 634 establishes the Commission to Advance Next Generation 9-1-1 Across Maryland. MACo believes this legislation is vital for the development of a statewide strategy to create a common framework for the implementation of NG911 in Maryland.

The Commission will examine the strategic aspects of Next Generation 9-1-1 implementation in coordination with the Emergency Number Systems Board's (ENSB) existing efforts, with a particular emphasis on addressing areas outside of the statutory responsibilities of the ENSB. The Commission will study and make recommendations for the implementation, technology, funding, governance, and ongoing statewide development of Next Generation 9-1-1 to the Governor and Maryland General Assembly.

Maryland citizens demand and expect 9-1-1 emergency service to be reliable and efficient. Next-generation technology is required to keep up with this increasingly complex public safety function – improving wireless caller location, accommodating incoming text/video, and managing crisis-driven call overflows. Maryland must accelerate its move toward Next Generation 9-1-1, deliver these essential services equitably across the state, and assure effective coordination with communications providers.

Counties encourage efforts to enhance emergency communications in Maryland. HB 634 urges a statewide effort to guide this critical transition, harnessing public safety industry leadership and expertise to address complex public safety concerns.

Accordingly, MACo urges a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 634.