

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

Senate Bill 649

(Senator Kagan)

Education, Energy, and the Environment

Health and Government Operations

9-1-1 Trust Fund - Purposes - Training in Telecommunications
Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation

This bill expands the stated purpose of the 9-1-1 Trust Fund to include providing funding for telecommunications cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM) advises that CPR training is already an allowable expense of the 9-1-1 Trust Fund and, therefore, the bill is clarifying in nature and does not affect special fund expenditures from the 9-1-1 Trust Fund. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: The bill does not materially affect local government operations or finances. Any local expenditures for counties that provide telecommunications CPR training to public safety answering point (PSAP) personnel are reimbursable by the 9-1-1 Trust Fund.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law:

Maryland's 9-1-1 System and the Maryland 9-1-1 Board

The State's 9-1-1 system operates primarily through PSAPs, which are generally owned and operated by local governments. 9-1-1 specialists working within PSAPs answer, redirect, and take action on 9-1-1 calls received based on the location of the originating

9-1-1 call. State and local governments are preparing for “next generation” 9-1-1 technology that will allow PSAPs to access not only more accurate information about caller location but also other information that will assist emergency personnel in communicating with callers and responding more efficiently. Legislation has been enacted in recent years to, among other things:

- transfer the Maryland 9-1-1 Board that is responsible for administering the 9-1-1 Trust Fund and overseeing the State’s 9-1-1 system from the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to MDEM;
- expand the uses of the 9-1-1 Trust Fund to include providing funding for 9-1-1 specialist training activities; and
- increase funding for the State’s 9-1-1 system.

The Maryland 9-1-1 Board’s other responsibilities include (1) dispersing funds to local governments from the 9-1-1 Trust Fund for authorized costs; (2) reviewing and approving or disapproving requests for reimbursement of the costs of enhancing 9-1-1 systems; (3) ensuring the inspection of PSAPs; (4) auditing counties to ensure that 9-1-1 Trust Funds are being used for authorized purposes; (5) establishing training standards for PSAP personnel based on national best practices and related to Next Generation 9-1-1; and (6) consulting with the Maryland Cybersecurity Council to establish cybersecurity standards for PSAPs.

9-1-1 Trust Fund

The 9-1-1 Trust Fund is funded through a State 9-1-1 fee and county 9-1-1 fee. Telephone companies, wireless carriers, and other 9-1-1 accessible service providers collect and remit the fees monthly to the Comptroller for deposit into the fund. The State 9-1-1 fee is distributed to counties at the discretion of the Maryland 9-1-1 Board in response to county 9-1-1 system enhancement requests. The county fee, the prepaid wireless 9-1-1 fee remittances, and any investment earnings of the fund are all distributed quarterly to each county in prorated amounts according to the level of fees collected in each jurisdiction.

The stated purpose of the 9-1-1 Trust Fund includes reimbursing expenses for specified activities such as (1) the operation and maintenance of 9-1-1 systems; (2) PSAP facilities; (3) public education materials; (4) the training of county personnel working in or directly supporting a PSAP; and (5) 9-1-1 specialist recruitment activities.

Additional Comments: MDEM advises that there are many high-quality CPR trainings available for PSAP employees, including free trainings available through the International Association of Emergency Dispatch.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: HB 1092 (Delegate White Holland, *et al.*) - Health and Government Operations.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Emergency Management; Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems; Baltimore City; Harford and Montgomery counties; Maryland Municipal League; Department of Legislative Services

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Analysis by: Richard L. Duncan

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510