

MARYLAND

9-1-1

EMERGENCY
NUMBER SYSTEMS BOARD

STATE OF MARYLAND

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Emergency Number Systems Board

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February 18, 2020

The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair
House of Delegates
Health and Government Operations Committee
Room 241
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: House Bill 421 - State Government – Open Meetings – Requirements and Application of Open Meetings Act (Maryland State Agency Transparency Act)

Dear Delegate Pendergrass and Committee Members:

The Maryland Emergency Number Systems Board (ENSB or Board) was created to provide stewardship of Maryland's 9-1-1 Trust Fund, and to provide oversight to Maryland's 9-1-1 system. This includes reviewing and approving/disapproving county 9-1-1 plans and requests for funding for 9-1-1 system enhancements. The Board meets monthly in public session to consider these requests, and also in its established subcommittees.

Many of the county requests for 9-1-1 system enhancement funding include network design, cyber-security, physical security and other requests that help to prevent or mitigate 9-1-1 service disruptions. The Board also, through its process, examines 9-1-1 system disruptions and service affecting issues that describe vulnerabilities in the 9-1-1 system that could be exploited in order to learn from those events to prevent them from reoccurring. Through this process, the Board has strengthened the reliability and resiliency of Maryland's 9-1-1 system. These discussions permeate the entirety of each public meeting.

While today's meetings are open to the public, the Board is aware of who is in the room during these discussions. With the live streaming of meetings on the ENSB website, anyone may have access to the discussion regarding network design, security and vulnerabilities that could be exploited. Due to the nature of the Board's conversations, much of its business may need to be conducted in closed session (for public security reasons), thereby disallowing the public access to these meetings.

If you have any questions, or if I can provide further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at (410) 339 – 6305.

Sincerely,

Scott G. Roper
Executive Director