

Testimony of:

Jack Markey, Acting-President, Maryland Emergency Managers Association, an affiliate organization of the Maryland Association of Counties

---

In Maryland, the delivery of 9-1-1 services is a local responsibility with oversight and support from the MD 9-1-1 Board and funding from the MD 9-1-1 Trust Fund. SB645 proposes to reform 9-1-1 Procurement, without showing that reform is necessary, or that the proposed reforms are appropriate and sufficient to achieve any goal.

Concerns regarding proposed language on SB645:

1. The concept in *(proposed) §1–306.1* could create a condition where the MD 9-1-1 Board had agreed to fund a project based on a request from a county 9-1-1 Director and lawful procurement of services or equipment made by the county, and then within the 60-day notice period after the county provides the reimbursement request to the Board’s designated “Procurement Officer” the reimbursement to cover the eligible work *already approved and completed* could be withheld if the Procurement Officer disagrees with the county’s procurement action.
2. Counties are charged with the responsibility of operating 9-1-1 Centers in MD under State law (*MD Annotated Code, Public Safety Article, §1–304*);
3. Counties employ staff to fulfill the responsibilities under #1, including leadership and technical staff, in accordance with local elected officials direction and policies, following the standards or general policy guidance of the MD 9-1-1 Board regarding performance and outcomes;
4. Counties are responsible for making procurements to fulfill their responsibilities in #1 under County law and procedure, consistent with County-level auditing, as well as review by the MD 9-1-1 Board when funding is requested from the MD 9-1-1 Trust Fund, and are responsible to provide annual independent audits of county expenditures for the operation and maintenance of 9–1–1 systems to the MD 9-1-1 Board (*MD Annotated Code, Public Safety Article, §1–306(b)(9)*);
5. MD 9-1-1 Board already provides a review of requests for funding based on State law and policy in open session, in addition to any requirements for transparency of procurements in place at the County level;
6. Fiscal note unspecified: The staff required to review several hundred projects each year from twenty-four different PSAPs at the State level is non-trivial. It is also likely that the back and forth on project paperwork will require significant additional county staff effort.

I urge you to amend Senate Bill 645 to provide for a study of whether 9-1-1 Procurement Reform is required; recommend goals for direct participation of small, minority or veteran-owned businesses when practical; and to identify opportunities for the State to assist local governments with cooperative purchasing.