

1 **ENROLLED**

2 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

3 for

4 **H. B. 2013**

5  
6 (By Delegates Hamilton and Staggers)

7 [Passed March 11, 2011; in effect ninety days from passage.]

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10 AN ACT to amend and reenact §24-6-5 of the Code of West Virginia,  
11 1931, as amended, relating to requirements for enhanced  
12 emergency telephone systems and county emergency dispatch  
13 centers.

14 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

15 That §24-6-5 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended,  
16 be amended and reenacted to read as follows:

17 **ARTICLE 6. LOCAL EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SYSTEM.**

18 **§24-6-5. Enhanced emergency telephone system requirements.**

19 (a) An enhanced emergency telephone system, at a minimum,  
20 shall provide that:

21 (1) All the territory in the county, including every municipal  
22 corporation in the county, which is served by telephone company  
23 central office equipment that will permit such a system to be  
24 established shall be included in the system: *Provided*, That if a  
25 portion of the county or a portion of a municipal corporation  
26 within the county is already being served by an enhanced emergency

1 telephone system, that portion of the county or municipality may be  
2 excluded from the county enhanced emergency telephone system;

3 (2) Every emergency service provider that provides emergency  
4 service within the territory of a county participate in the system;

5 (3) Each county answering point be operated constantly;

6 (4) Each emergency service provider participating in the  
7 system maintain a telephone number in addition to the one provided  
8 in the system; and

9 (5) If the county answering point personnel reasonably  
10 determine that a call is not an emergency, the personnel provide  
11 the caller with the number of the appropriate emergency service  
12 provider.

13 (b) To the extent possible, enhanced emergency telephone  
14 systems shall be centralized.

15 (c) In developing an enhanced emergency telephone system, a  
16 county commission or the West Virginia State Police shall seek the  
17 advice of both the telephone companies providing local exchange  
18 service within the county and the local emergency providers.

19 (d) As a condition of employment, a person employed as the  
20 director of an emergency dispatch center who dispatches emergency  
21 calls or supervises the dispatching of emergency call takers is  
22 subject to an investigation of their character and background.  
23 This investigation shall include, at a minimum, a criminal  
24 background check conducted by the State Police at its expense. A  
25 felony conviction shall preclude a person from holding any of these  
26 positions.

1 (e) As a condition of continued employment, persons employed  
2 to dispatch emergency calls in county emergency dispatch centers  
3 shall successfully complete:

4 (1) A forty-hour nationally recognized training course for  
5 dispatchers within one year of the date of their employment; and,

6 (2) An additional nationally recognized emergency medical  
7 dispatch course or an emergency medical dispatch course approved by  
8 the Office of Emergency Medical Services not later than July 1,  
9 2013, or if employed subsequent to July 1, 2013, within one year of  
10 the date of employment.

11 (f) On or before July 1, 2013, the director of each county  
12 emergency dispatch center shall develop policies and procedures to  
13 establish a protocol for dispatching emergency medical calls  
14 implementing a nationally recognized emergency medical dispatch  
15 program or an emergency medical dispatch program approved by the  
16 Office of Emergency Medical Services: Provided, That a county's  
17 emergency dispatch center, which utilizes a "one-button transfer"  
18 system, may continue to use this system, if the county's emergency  
19 dispatch center establishes policies and procedures which require  
20 the agency to whom the call is transferred to remain on the call  
21 until a first responder arrives.

(g) Each county or municipality  
22 shall appoint for each answering point an enhanced emergency  
23 telephone system advisory board consisting of at least six members  
24 to monitor the operation of the system. The board shall be  
25 appointed by the county or municipality and shall include at least  
26 one member from affected:

- 1 (1) Fire service providers;  
2 (2) Law-enforcement providers;  
3 (3) Emergency medical providers;  
4 (4) Emergency services providers participating in the system;  
5 and,  
6 (5) Counties or municipalities.

7 The director of the county or municipal enhanced telephone  
8 system shall serve as an ex officio member of the advisory board.

9 (h) The initial advisory board shall serve staggered terms of  
10 one, two and three years. The initial terms of these appointees  
11 shall commence on July 1, 1994. All future appointments shall be  
12 for terms of three years, except that an appointment to fill a  
13 vacancy shall be for the unexpired term. All members shall serve  
14 without compensation. The board shall adopt such policies, rules  
15 and regulations as are necessary for its own guidance. The board  
16 shall meet monthly, or quarterly. The board may make  
17 recommendations to the county or municipality concerning the  
18 operation of the system.

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20 (i) Nothing herein contained shall be construed to prohibit or  
21 discourage in any way the establishment of multijurisdictional or  
22 regional systems, or multijurisdictional or regional agreements for  
23 the establishment of enhanced emergency telephone systems, and any  
24 system established pursuant to this article may include the  
25 territory of more than one public agency, or may include only a  
26 portion of the territory of a public agency.