

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2020 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 4516

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[Introduced January 23, 2020; Referred to the
Committee on Technology and Infrastructure then the
Judiciary]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §24-6-2 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to
 2 amend said code by adding thereto a new section designated §24-6-15, all relating to
 3 establishing Next Generation 911 services in this state; providing for expanded definitions;
 4 establishing a commission to study Next Generation 911 services; providing for
 5 commission membership; providing for travel expense reimbursement under certain
 6 conditions; establishing the commission's duties; requiring a preliminary report to the Joint
 7 Committee on Government and Finance; requiring a final report to the Joint Committee on
 8 Government and Finance and to the Governor; and establishing an effective date and
 9 termination date of the commission.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 6. LOCAL EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SYSTEM.

§24-6-2. Definitions.

1 As used in this article, unless the context clearly requires a different meaning:

2 ~~(1)~~ “Automatic location identification” or “ALI” means a telecommunications network
 3 capability that enables the automatic display of information defining the geographical location of
 4 the telephone used to place a wireless enhanced 911 call.

5 “Automatic number identification” or “ANI” means a telecommunications network
 6 capability that enables the automatic display of the telephone number used to place a wireless
 7 enhanced 911 call.

8 “Commercial mobile radio service provider” or “CMRS provider” means cellular licensees,
 9 broadband personal communications services (PCS) licensees and specialized mobile radio
 10 (SMR) providers, as those terms are defined by the Federal Communications Commission, which
 11 offer on a post-paid or prepaid basis or via a combination of those two methods, real-time, two-
 12 way switched voice service that is interconnected with the public switched network and includes
 13 resellers of any commercial mobile radio service.

14 ~~(2)~~ “County answering point” or “Public safety answering point” or “PSAP” means a facility

15 to which ~~enhanced emergency telephone system~~ 911 calls for a county are initially routed for
16 response and where county personnel respond to specific requests for emergency service by
17 directly dispatching the appropriate emergency service provider, relaying a message to the
18 appropriate provider or transferring the call to the appropriate provider.

19 ~~(3)~~ “Emergency services organization” means the organization established under §15-5-
20 1 *et seq.* of this code.

21 ~~(4)~~ “Emergency service provider” means any emergency services organization or public
22 safety unit.

23 ~~(7)~~ “Emergency telephone system” means a telephone system which through normal
24 telephone service facilities automatically connects a person dialing the primary emergency
25 telephone number to an established public agency answering point, but does not include an
26 enhanced emergency telephone system.

27 “Emergency services IP network” or “ESInet” means a shared public safety agency-
28 managed Internet-Protocol (IP) network that: (A) Is used for emergency services communications;
29 (B) provides an IP transport infrastructure that is capable of carrying voice and data and that
30 supports NG911 service core functions such as routing and location validation of emergency
31 service requests; and (C) is engineered, managed, and intended to support emergency public
32 safety communications and 911 service.

33 ~~(6)~~ “Enhanced emergency telephone system” or “enhanced 911 service” means a
34 telephone system which automatically connects the person dialing the ~~primary emergency~~
35 ~~number 911~~ to the appropriate county answering point with ALI and ANI data. and in which the
36 ~~telephone network system automatically provides to personnel receiving the call, immediately on~~
37 ~~answering the call, information on the location and the telephone number from which the call is~~
38 ~~being made and, upon direction from the personnel receiving the call, routes_ or dispatches the~~
39 ~~call by telephone, radio or any other appropriate means of communication to emergency service~~
40 ~~providers that serve the location from which the call is made~~

41 “Next Generation 911” or “NG911” means a service that: (A) Consists of coordinated
42 intrastate 911 IP networks serving residents of West Virginia with the routing of emergency
43 service requests, by voice or data, across public safety ESNets; (B) automatically directs 911
44 emergency telephone calls and other emergency service requests in data formats to the
45 appropriate PSAP by routing using geographical information system data; (C) provides for ALL
46 and ANI features; and (D) interconnects with enhanced 911 service.

47 ~~(7)~~ “Prepaid wireless calling service” means prepaid wireless calling service as defined in
48 §11-15-2 of this code.

49 ~~(8)~~ “Public agency” means the state and any municipality, county, public district or public
50 authority which provides or has authority to provide firefighting, police, ambulance, medical,
51 rescue or other emergency services.

52 ~~(9)~~ “Public safety unit” means a functional division of a public agency which provides fire
53 fighting, police, medical, rescue or other emergency services.

54 ~~(10)~~ “Telephone company” means any public utility and any CMRS provider which is
55 engaged in the provision of telephone service whether primarily by means of wire or wireless
56 facilities.

57 ~~(11)~~ “Comprehensive plan” means a plan pertaining to the installing, modifying or
58 replacing of telephone switching equipment; a telephone utility's response in a timely manner to
59 requests for emergency telephone service by a public agency; a telephone utility's responsibility
60 to report to the Public Service Commission; charges and tariffs for the services and facilities
61 provided by a telephone utility; and access to an emergency telephone system by emergency
62 service organizations.

63 ~~(12)~~ “Technical and operational standards” means those standards of telephone
64 equipment and processes necessary for the implementation of the comprehensive plan as defined
65 in subdivision (11) of this subsection.

66 “VoIP service” means interconnected voice over Internet protocol service as defined in the

67 code of Federal Regulations, Title 47, Part 9, section 9.3, as amended.

§24-6-15. Commission to implement NG911 in West Virginia.

1 (a) Legislative findings. – (1) The Legislature finds that:

2 (A) Communication technology has substantially outpaced the legacy communication
3 technology presently utilized by most public safety answering points in the State of West Virginia;

4 (B) The lack of modern technology is impacting the ability of the 911 system to efficiently
5 and effectively provide responses to emergencies;

6 (C) West Virginia citizens expect a 911 emergency service to be reliable and efficient; and

7 (D) Modernizing West Virginia’s 911 system to include new and evolving capabilities of
8 broadband voice and data communications is essential for the safety and security of the general
9 public and first responders.

10 (2) The Legislature further finds that it is necessary to implement Next Generation 911
11 emergency services and to create a framework to help guide the transition to implementation of
12 Next Generation 911 services.

13 (b) Commission established. – (1) This article establishes a Commission to Advance
14 NG911 in West Virginia.

15 (2) The commission consists of the following members:

16 (A) Two members of the Senate of West Virginia, appointed by the President of the
17 Senate;

18 (B) Two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

19 (C) The chairman of the Public Service Commission or designee;

20 (D) The Chief Technology Officer from the West Virginia Office of Technology, or
21 designee;

22 (E) The Chairperson of the Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, or designee;

23 (F) Four representatives from PSAP’s, appointed by the Governor with the advice and
24 consent of the Senate from a list of 12 names selected by the County Commission Association of

25 West Virginia;

26 (G) Four county government representatives, familiar with county purchasing and
27 finances, appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate from a list of 12
28 names selected by the County Commission Association of West Virginia;

29 (H) The following nonvoting members appointed by the Governor:

30 (i) One representative from the broadband industry offering service within West Virginia;

31 (ii) One representative from a local exchange carrier offering service within West Virginia;

32 (iii) One representative from the wireless communications industry offering service within

33 West Virginia;

34 (iv) One representative from the public safety communications industry that provides 911
35 call handling solutions and radio network infrastructure.

36 (3) The commission may call upon anyone with necessary expertise and knowledge to
37 provide any advice relevant to the commission's purpose.

38 (4) The commission shall elect the chair of the commission.

39 (5) The entities represented on the commission in §24-6-14(b)(2)(A) through §24-6-
40 14(b)(2)(G) of this code shall jointly provide staff for the commission. Additional staff may be
41 requested through the Joint Committee on Government and Finance.

42 (c) A member of the commission may not receive compensation as a member of the
43 commission, but may receive reimbursement for related travel expenses as prescribed by the
44 West Virginia State Travel Management Office, as provided in the state budget.

45 (d) Duties of the commission. – The commission shall study and make recommendations
46 regarding:

47 (1) The implementation, management, operation, and ongoing development of NG911
48 emergency communication services;

49 (2) The current statutory and regulatory framework for the management and funding of the
50 current enhanced 911 or other emergency phone systems in the state;

51 (3) Federal, state, and local authorities, agencies, and governing bodies whose
52 participation and cooperation will be necessary for the implementation of NG911 services in this
53 state;

54 (4) The costs required to plan, test, implement, manage, and operate NG911 technology
55 and services;

56 (5) Best practices, policies, and procedures for public safety telecommunications;

57 (6) Any efforts, projects, or initiative in progress or planned to upgrade the enhanced 911
58 systems in this state or implement NG911 in any county of this state;

59 (7) Any other issues the commission may consider useful in the planning and
60 implementation of NG911 emergency communication services in West Virginia.

61 (e) Preliminary report .– On or before December 31, 2020, the commission shall submit a
62 preliminary report to the Joint Committee on Government and Finance regarding:

63 (1) The needs, both capital and operating, to bring efficient and effective NG911
64 technology and service across West Virginia, and estimated costs;

65 (2) The current funding structure for both state and local support for enhanced 911 or
66 emergency telephone systems and the adequacy in supporting current service and NG911
67 service;

68 (3) Comparisons of the current West Virginia Wireless 911 fee pursuant to §24-6-6b of
69 this code and the charge mechanisms used in other states;

70 (4) Potential changes to the fee in §24-6-6b of this code, including additional charge
71 mechanisms and the estimated effect of the implementation of full service NG911 across this
72 state;

73 (5) Grant funding applicable to promote and ensure ideal support for maintenance,
74 training, and other costs associated with both the transition to NG911 service and the continued
75 function of effective call centers; and

76 (6) Other issues related to financing, procuring, and maintaining effective NG911 across

77 this state.

78 (f) Final report .– On or before December 31, 2021, the commission shall submit a final
79 report to the Joint Committee on Government and Finance and to the Governor regarding:

80 (1) The final expected costs and funding sources associated with NG911, including, final
81 recommendations to change fees pursuant to §24-6-6b of this code or any additional charging
82 mechanism, or grant funds applicable to implement and maintain NG911;

83 (2) The implementation, management, operation and ongoing development of NG911
84 emergency communication services during both NG911 transition to expanded service and the
85 permanent service;

86 (3) The current statutory and regulatory framework for the management and funding of
87 NG911 services in the state;

88 (4) Federal, state, and local authorities, agencies and governing bodies whose
89 participation and cooperation will be necessary for the implementation of NG911 services in this
90 state;

91 (5) Recommendations for oversight of NG911 services and ongoing oversight of expenses
92 and funding;

93 (6) Best practices, policies and procedures for public safety telecommunications;

94 (7) Any efforts, projects, or initiative in progress or planned to upgrade the enhanced 911
95 systems in this state or implement NG911 in any county of this state;

96 (8) Any other issues the commission may consider useful in the planning and
97 implementation of NG911 emergency communication services in West Virginia.

98 (g) Effective date. – This commission shall be in full force and effect on June 1, 2020. The
99 commission shall remain in effect until June 30, 2022, and, with no further action by the
100 Legislature, the commission shall sunset and cease to exist.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to establish Next Generation 911 services in West

Virginia.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.