WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION, 1988

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ENROLLED

HOUSE BILL No. 4729

(By Delegate Lewis)

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Passed March 12, 1988

In Effect Ninety Days from Passage
AN ACT to amend article six, chapter twenty-four of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, by adding thereto a new section, designated section one-a; and to amend and reenact section two of said article six, all relating to authorizing municipalities to establish local emergency telephone systems and enter into agreements with counties; definitions.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That article six, chapter twenty-four of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, be amended by adding thereto a new section, designated section one-a; and that section two of said article be amended and reenacted, all to read as follows:

ARTICLE 6. LOCAL EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SYSTEM.

§24-6-1a. Municipal emergency telephone systems.

1 Effective the first day of April, one thousand nine hundred eighty-eight, and thereafter, the provisions of this article shall also be applicable to municipalities of this state. Where the provisions of this article refer to the word “county” or “counties,” henceforth such references shall be considered to include the word “municipality” or “municipalities” with respect to the subject matter therein, except and unless such reference to “municipality” or “municipalities” would not have a logical and clear meaning within such context.
It is the intent of this section to make this article equally applicable to counties and municipalities alike and to allow county commissions and the officials of municipalities to enter into such agreements between them or the telephone company as may be necessary to accomplish the purposes provided for by this article: Provided, That if any county has a system in place, municipalities may not adopt a different system without county approval.

§24-6-2. Definitions.

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

(1) "County answering point" means a facility to which enhanced emergency telephone system calls for a county are initially routed for response, and where county personnel respond to specific requests for emergency service by directly dispatching the appropriate emergency service provider, relaying a message to the appropriate provider or transferring the call to the appropriate provider.

(2) "Emergency services organization" means the organization established under article five, chapter fifteen of this code.

(3) "Emergency service provider" means any emergency services organization or public safety unit.

(4) "Emergency telephone system" means a telephone system which through normal telephone service facilities automatically connects a person dialing the primary emergency telephone number to an established public agency answering point, but does not include an enhanced emergency telephone system.

(5) "Enhanced emergency telephone system" means a telephone system which automatically connects the person dialing the primary emergency number to the county answering point and in which the telephone network system automatically provides to personnel receiving the call, immediately on answering the call, information on the location and the telephone number from which the call is being made, and upon direction
from the personnel receiving the call routes or dispatches such call by telephone, radio or any other appropriate means of communication to emergency service providers that serve the location from which the call is made.

(6) "Public agency" means the state, and any municipality, county, public district or public authority which provides or has authority to provide fire-fighting, police, ambulance, medical, rescue or other emergency services.

(7) "Public safety unit" means a functional division of a public agency which provides fire-fighting, police, medical, rescue or other emergency services.

(8) "Telephone company" means a public utility which is engaged in the provision of telephone service.
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The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

Bruce A. Williams
Chairman Senate Committee

Bernard V. Kelly
Chairman House Committee

Originating in the House.

Takes effect ninety days from passage.

Jeff A. Miller
Clerk of the Senate

Donald J. Kepp
Clerk of the House of Delegates

Don Toronto
President of the Senate

Robert C. Kastner
Speaker of the House of Delegates

The within approved this the 28th day of March, 1988.

Rick A. Snyder
Governor