WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION, 1990

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ENROLLED

HOUSE BILL No. 4147

(By Mr. Jones and Manuel)

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Passed March 10, 1990

In Effect ninety days from Passage
AN ACT to amend and reenact sections two and three, article six, chapter twenty-four of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, relating to public service commission's regulation of local emergency telephone systems and the participation by the department of public safety in these proceedings.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That sections two and three, article six, chapter twenty-four of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, be amended and reenacted to read as follows:

CHAPTER 24. PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

ARTICLE 6. LOCAL EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SYSTEM.

§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.

(9) "Comprehensive plan" means a plan pertaining to the installing, modifying or replacing of telephone switching equipment; telephone utilities’ response in a timely manner to requests for emergency telephone service by a public agency; telephone utilities’ respon-
sibility to report to the public service commission; charges and tariffs for the services and facilities provided by telephone utilities; and access to emergency telephone system by emergency service organizations.

(10) "Technical and operational standards" means those standards of telephone equipment and processes necessary for the implementation of the comprehensive plan as defined in subdivision (9) above.

§24-6-3. Adoption of emergency telephone system plan; department of public safety to adopt alternate plan.

(a) The public service commission shall develop, adopt and periodically review a comprehensive plan establishing the technical and operational standards to be followed in establishing and maintaining emergency telephone systems and enhanced emergency telephone systems.

(b) In developing the comprehensive plan, the public service commission shall consult with telephone companies, and with the various public agencies and public safety units, including, but not limited to, emergency services organizations.

(c) The public service commission shall annually review with each operating telephone company their construction and switching replacements projections. During this review, the public service commission shall ensure that all new switching facilities will accommodate the emergency telephone system.
The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

Chairman Senate Committee

Chairman House Committee

Originating in the House.

Takes effect ninety days from passage.

Clerk of the Senate

Clerk of the House of Delegates

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House of Delegates

The within is approved this the 30th day of

, 1940.

Governor