WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE
EXTRAORDINARY SESSION, 1996

ENROLLED

HOUSE BILL No. 109

(By Delegate Mr. Spaulding, Mr. Chambers, and Delegate Ashley
By Request of the Executive)

Passed July 16, 1996

In Effect From Passage
ENROLLED

H. B. 109

(By Mr. Speaker, Mr. Chambers, and Delegate Ashley)

[By Request of the Executive]

[Passed July 16, 1996; in effect from passage.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact section five, article six, chapter twenty-four of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, relating to the requirements for an enhanced emergency telephone system; and describing the territory which may be included in an enhanced emergency telephone system.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That section five, 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:

ARTICLE 6. LOCAL EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SYSTEM.

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

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

2  (1) All the territory in the county, including every municipal corporation in the county, which is served by telephone company central office equipment that will permit such a system to be established shall be included in the system: Provided, That if a portion of the county or a portion of a municipal corporation within the county is already being served by an enhanced emergency telephone system, that portion of the county or municipality may be excluded from the county enhanced emergency telephone system;
(2) Every emergency service provider that provides emergency service within the territory of a county participate in the system;

(3) Each county answering point be operated constantly;

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

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

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

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

(d) As a condition of continued employment, persons employed to dispatch emergency calls shall successfully complete a forty-hour nationally recognized training course for dispatchers within one year of the date of their employment; except that persons employed to dispatch emergency calls prior to the effective date of this subsection, as a condition of continuing employment, shall successfully complete such a course not later than the first day of July, one thousand nine hundred ninety-five.

(e) Each county or municipality shall appoint for each answering point an enhanced emergency telephone system advisory board consisting of at least six members to monitor the operation of the system. The board shall be appointed by the county or municipality and shall include at least one member from affected fire service providers, law-enforcement providers, emergency medical providers and emergency services providers participating in the system and at least one member from the county or municipality. The board may make recommendations to the
county or municipality concerning the operation of the
system.

In addition, the director of the county or municipal
enhanced telephone system shall serve as an ex officio
member of the advisory board. The initial advisory board
shall serve staggered terms of one, two and three years.
The initial terms of these appointees shall commence on
the first day of July, one thousand nine hundred
ninety-four. All future appointments shall be for terms of
three years, except that an appointment to fill a vacancy
shall be for the unexpired term. All members shall serve
without compensation. The board shall adopt such poli-
cies, rules and regulations as are necessary for its own
guidance. The board shall meet monthly on the day of
each month which the board may designate. The board
may make recommendations to the county or municipali-
ty concerning the operation of the system.

(f) Any advisory board established prior to the first
day of January, one thousand nine hundred ninety-four,
shall have three years to meet the criteria of subsection (e)
of this section.

(g) Nothing herein contained shall be construed to
prohibit or discourage in any way the establishment of
multijurisdictional or regional systems, or multijurisdic-
tional or regional agreements for the establishment of
enhanced emergency telephone systems, and any system
established pursuant to this article may include the territo-
ry of more than one public agency, or may include only a
portion of the territory of a public agency.
The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

[Signatures]

Chairman Senate Committee
Chairman House Committee

Originating in the House.

Takes effect from passage.

[Signatures]

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 25th day of July, 1996.

[Signature] Governor