

FILED

2003 MAR 27 P 4: 06

OFFICE WEST VIRGINIA  
SECRETARY OF STATE

**WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

*Regular Session, 2003*

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**ENROLLED**

SENATE BILL NO. 436

(By Senator Hunter, et al )

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PASSED March 8, 2003

In Effect ninety days from **Passage**

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SECRETARY OF STATE

## ENROLLED

### Senate Bill No. 436

(BY SENATORS HUNTER, OLIVERIO, PREZIOSO, KESSLER,  
SNYDER, CALDWELL, DEMPSEY, LOVE, BAILEY, HELMICK,  
MCCABE, ROWE, FANNING, BOWMAN, MCKENZIE, ROSS,  
WHITE, JENKINS, MINARD, UNGER AND SHARPE)

[Passed March 8, 2003; in effect ninety days from passage.]

AN ACT to amend chapter twenty-four of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, by adding thereto a new article, designated article eight, relating to directing the public service commission to implement the West Virginia 211 information and referral system in accordance with the recommendations of the public service commissions' appointed task force as reported to the Legislature in two thousand two.

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

That chapter twenty-four of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, be amended by adding thereto a new article, designated article eight, to read as follows:

**ARTICLE 8. 211 INFORMATION AND REFERRAL SYSTEM.****§24-8-1. Legislative findings.**

1 The Legislature finds that it is in the best interest of the  
2 citizens of West Virginia to implement the universally, free  
3 access telephone number "211" made available by the  
4 federal communications commission for states to develop  
5 an information and referral source for human and social  
6 services. The "211" system will provide a vital resource to  
7 the citizens of West Virginia for social and human service  
8 information and referral by providing a critical connection  
9 between individuals and families in need and the appro-  
10 priate community-based organizations and government  
11 agencies.

12 The Legislature further finds that implementing the  
13 "211" information and referral system will serve as a  
14 centralized resource for human and social service profes-  
15 sionals, medical personnel, government agencies and  
16 charitable organizations by providing a full spectrum of  
17 service options to the citizens of West Virginia. The "211"  
18 system will also serve as a centralized point in times of  
19 natural disasters or national emergencies by providing  
20 access to information for the coordination of relief.

21 Therefore, the Legislature authorizes and directs the  
22 public service commission to implement the "211" infor-  
23 mation and referral system in accordance with the recom-  
24 mendations of the public service commissions' appointed  
25 task force as reported to the Legislature.

**§24-8-2. Rule-making authority.**

1 The public service commission shall propose rules for  
2 legislative promulgation in accordance with article three,  
3 chapter twenty-nine-a of this code regarding the imple-  
4 mentation and administration of this system. From the  
5 effective date of this section until the date of the promul-  
6 gation of these rules, the commission may file rules as  
7 emergency rules in accordance with the applicable provi-

8 sions of this code in order to implement and administer  
9 this system.

The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

*Gay/Plumz*  
.....  
Chairman Senate Committee

*Greg Butcher*  
.....  
Chairman House Committee

Originated in the Senate.

In effect ninety days from passage.

*Darrell E. Eshen*  
.....  
Clerk of the Senate

*Bryson M. Bond*  
.....  
Clerk of the House of Delegates

*Earl Ray Tomblin*  
.....  
President of the Senate

*[Signature]*  
.....  
Speaker House of Delegates

The within *is approved* this the *27<sup>th</sup>*  
Day of *March*, 2003.

*Bob Wise*  
.....  
Governor

PRESENTED TO THE  
GOVERNOR

Date 3/20/03

Time 9:40 am