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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE BILL

No. 984 Session of  
2020

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INTRODUCED BY MENSCH, AUMENT, MARTIN, PHILLIPS-HILL, MASTRIANO,  
YAW, KILLION, PITTMAN AND BARTOLOTTA, JANUARY 23, 2020

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REFERRED TO LAW AND JUSTICE, JANUARY 23, 2020

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AN ACT

1 Amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), entitled  
2 "An act providing for and reorganizing the conduct of the  
3 executive and administrative work of the Commonwealth by the  
4 Executive Department thereof and the administrative  
5 departments, boards, commissions, and officers thereof,  
6 including the boards of trustees of State Normal Schools, or  
7 Teachers Colleges; abolishing, creating, reorganizing or  
8 authorizing the reorganization of certain administrative  
9 departments, boards, and commissions; defining the powers and  
10 duties of the Governor and other executive and administrative  
11 officers, and of the several administrative departments,  
12 boards, commissions, and officers; fixing the salaries of the  
13 Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and certain other executive  
14 and administrative officers; providing for the appointment of  
15 certain administrative officers, and of all deputies and  
16 other assistants and employes in certain departments, boards,  
17 and commissions; providing for judicial administration; and  
18 prescribing the manner in which the number and compensation  
19 of the deputies and all other assistants and employes of  
20 certain departments, boards and commissions shall be  
21 determined," providing for administration of Pennsylvania  
22 Statewide Radio Network by Pennsylvania State Police.

23 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
24 hereby enacts as follows:

25 Section 1. The act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), known  
26 as The Administrative Code of 1929, is amended by adding an  
27 article to read:

28 ARTICLE VII-A

1 PENNSYLVANIA STATEWIDE RADIO NETWORK

2 Section 701-A. Definitions.

3 The following words and phrases when used in this article  
4 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
5 context clearly indicates otherwise:

6 "Business partner." An organization that has entered into an  
7 agreement with the Commonwealth under which it offers some form  
8 of nonmonetary consideration, such as frequency licenses or  
9 sites for system infrastructure, in return for permission to use  
10 PA-STARNet for radio communications.

11 "Commissioner." The Commissioner of Pennsylvania State  
12 Police.

13 "Committee." The PA-STARNet Committee established under  
14 section 703-A.

15 "Emergency communications." The means and methods for  
16 exchanging communications and information necessary for  
17 successful incident management.

18 "First responder." An individual who in the early stages of  
19 an incident is responsible for the protection and preservation  
20 of life, property, evidence and the environment, including  
21 emergency response providers as that term is defined in section  
22 2 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-296, 116  
23 Stat. 2135).

24 "Participating agency." A government agency, public safety  
25 organization, first responder organization, business partner or  
26 other organization.

27 "Pennsylvania Statewide Radio Network" or "PA-STARNet." A  
28 Statewide radio network comprising a communication and  
29 information infrastructure connected by a digital microwave  
30 system for transmission of voice and data, including all

1 frequency bands and other system extensions owned and operated  
2 by the Commonwealth and connected to the core digital trunked  
3 radio network operating in the 800 megahertz (MHz) public safety  
4 frequency band and in other public safety frequency bands  
5 licensed by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), or to  
6 the microwave backbone network.

7 "Public safety communications." The means and methods for  
8 transmitting and receiving information necessary for the conduct  
9 of services rendered by or through Federal, State or local  
10 government entities in support of the protection and  
11 preservation of life, property and natural resources, as  
12 prescribed by law.

13 "State police." The Pennsylvania State Police.  
14 Section 702-A. Administration of PA-STARNet.

15 (a) Authority.--The State police, through a PA-STARNet  
16 division, shall develop, operate, regulate, manage, maintain and  
17 monitor PA-STARNet, including PA-STARNet infrastructure,  
18 equipment, software, services and licenses.

19 (b) Purposes.--The State police shall administer PA-STARNet  
20 for:

- 21 (1) the benefit of the participating agencies;  
22 (2) the support of effective communications at critical  
23 public events; and  
24 (3) the interoperable communication needs of Federal,  
25 State and local first responders during emergencies.

26 (c) Policies and procedures.--The State police shall  
27 establish policies and procedures for the specification,  
28 procurement, development, testing, configuration, operations,  
29 use, replacement and maintenance of PA-STARNet resources.

30 Section 703-A. PA-STARNet Committee.

1       The PA-STARNet Committee is established in the State police  
2 to provide a standing forum for participating agencies to ensure  
3 coordination and cooperation among participating State agencies  
4 and county and local agencies in the development and use of PA-  
5 STARNet and its application to public safety communications and  
6 emergency communications.

7       Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.