

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1304 Session of 2023

INTRODUCED BY SOLOMON, MADDEN, WEBSTER, KINSEY, SANCHEZ, HILL- EVANS, GUENST, GUZMAN, GREEN, CIRESI AND KHAN, JUNE 2, 2023

SENATOR MASTRIANO, VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, IN SENATE, AS AMENDED, NOVEMBER 13, 2023

AN ACT

1 ~~Amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania~~ <--  
2 ~~Consolidated Statutes, in 911 emergency communication~~  
3 ~~services, further providing for uniform 911 surcharge and for~~  
4 ~~termination.~~

5 AMENDING TITLE 35 (HEALTH AND SAFETY) OF THE PENNSYLVANIA <--  
6 CONSOLIDATED STATUTES, IN 911 EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION  
7 SERVICES, PROVIDING FOR A LEGISLATIVE BUDGET AND FINANCE  
8 COMMITTEE STUDY AND FURTHER PROVIDING FOR TERMINATION.

9 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
10 hereby enacts as follows:

11 ~~Section 1. Section 5306.2 of Title 35 of the Pennsylvania~~ <--  
12 ~~Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding a subsection to read:~~  
13 ~~§ 5306.2. Uniform 911 surcharge.~~

14 \* \* \*

15 ~~(a.1) Surcharge increase. Beginning January 1, 2024, the~~  
16 ~~surcharge of \$1.65 assessed under subsection (a) shall increase~~  
17 ~~to \$1.97 and be adjusted annually each year thereafter by a~~  
18 ~~percentage equal to the upward percentage change in the Consumer~~  
19 ~~Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI U) for which figures~~  
20 ~~have been officially reported by the United States Department of~~

~~Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. The following shall apply:~~

~~(1) The surcharge increase shall be rounded to the nearest 1¢.~~

~~(2) The percentage change of the surcharge increase shall be determined by comparison of the figures for the previous June with the current June figures.~~

~~(3) The surcharge increase shall be applied to the next successive calendar year. If the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) declines, the amount of the surcharge shall remain unchanged for the successive calendar year.~~

~~(4) The agency shall, within 10 days of determining the surcharge increase, submit a notice of the determination to the Legislative Reference Bureau for publication in the next available issue of the Pennsylvania Bulletin.~~

~~\* \* \*~~

~~Section 2. Section 5398 of Title 35 is amended to read:~~

~~§ 5398. Termination.~~

~~This chapter shall expire January 31, [2024] 2029.~~

~~Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.~~

SECTION 1. TITLE 35 OF THE PENNSYLVANIA CONSOLIDATED STATUTES IS AMENDED BY ADDING A SECTION TO READ:

§ 5312.2. LEGISLATIVE BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE STUDY.

(A) REQUIREMENT.--THE LEGISLATIVE BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE JOINT STATE GOVERNMENT COMMISSION AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION, SHALL STUDY THE FOLLOWING AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS WITH RESPECT TO:

(1) DETERMINING ANY EFFICIENCIES THAT CAN BE GAINED IN THE CURRENT 911 SYSTEM OR POTENTIAL EFFICIENCIES THAT CAN BE GAINED WITH A DIFFERENT 911 SYSTEM.

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1           (2) REVIEWING OPERATIONS IN OTHER STATES, THE AMOUNT OF  
2 FUNDING THAT THE OTHER STATES PROVIDE THROUGH ALL FUNDING  
3 SOURCES, INCLUDING THE STATE FUNDING PER CAPITA, AND THE  
4 MAKEUP OF THE LOCAL SHARE.

5           (3) OPTIONS FOR THE CONSOLIDATION OF COUNTY 911 SYSTEMS,  
6 INCLUDING THE OPTION OF REGIONAL TASK FORCES PROPOSED BY THE  
7 AGENCY.

8           (4) OPTIONS TO ALLOW 911 SYSTEM EMPLOYEES TO WORK FROM  
9 HOME.

10           (5) THE USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN A 911 SYSTEM,  
11 INCLUDING RECOMMENDED STANDARDS.

12           (6) THE INTEGRATION OF THE 988 SUICIDE AND CRISIS  
13 LIFELINE INTO THE 911 SYSTEM, INCLUDING PROTOCOLS TO SUPPORT  
14 THE EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION OF RESPONDERS,  
15 LAW ENFORCEMENT AND FIRE AND AMBULANCE SERVICES DURING A  
16 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISIS.

17           (7) THE INTEGRATION OF PENNSYLVANIA STATE POLICE  
18 DISPATCH INTO THE 911 SYSTEM.

19           (8) THE USE OF AUTOMATIC ALARMS AND CALL STACKING,  
20 INCLUDING RECOMMENDED STANDARDS.

21           (B) CONSULTATION.--THE LEGISLATIVE BUDGET AND FINANCE  
22 COMMITTEE, JOINT STATE GOVERNMENT COMMISSION AND LOCAL  
23 GOVERNMENT COMMISSION MAY CONSULT WITH THE AGENCY, THE 9-1-1  
24 ADVISORY BOARD, THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION OF  
25 PENNSYLVANIA, THE PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY  
26 NUMBER ASSOCIATION AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS IN ORDER TO CONDUCT  
27 THE STUDY UNDER THIS SECTION.

28           (C) REPORT.--THE COMMITTEE SHALL SUBMIT A FINAL REPORT WITH  
29 RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CHAIR AND MINORITY CHAIR OF THE VETERANS  
30 AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE AND

1 THE CHAIR AND MINORITY CHAIR OF THE VETERANS AFFAIRS AND  
2 EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
3 BY NOVEMBER 30, 2024, AND SHALL TRANSMIT A COPY OF THE FINAL  
4 REPORT TO THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU FOR PUBLICATION IN  
5 THE NEXT AVAILABLE ISSUE OF THE PENNSYLVANIA BULLETIN WITHIN 30  
6 DAYS OF THE SUBMISSION OF THE FINAL REPORT.

7 SECTION 2. SECTION 5398 OF TITLE 35 IS AMENDED TO READ:

8 § 5398. TERMINATION.

9 THIS CHAPTER SHALL EXPIRE [JANUARY 31, 2024] SEPTEMBER 30,  
10 2025.

11 SECTION 3. THIS ACT SHALL TAKE EFFECT IMMEDIATELY.