

## THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

## HOUSE BILL

No. 72

Session of  
1977

INTRODUCED BY MESSRS. KOLTER, MILANOVICH, ZWIKL, LAUGHLIN,  
DOMBROWSKI, McCALL, BERLIN, PETRARCA, A. K. HUTCHINSON,  
IRVIS, MANDERINO, A. C. FOSTER, BITTINGER, ZORD, MRS. KELLY,  
MESSRS. SCHMITT, KLINGAMAN, LETTERMAN, REED, DININNI, CESSAR,  
POTT, ZEARFOSS, COWELL, MEBUS, BURD, STAIRS, W. D.  
HUTCHINSON, ZELLER, WILSON, O'KEEFE, LOGUE, HELFRICK,  
MADIGAN, HALVERSON, PRATT, MELUSKEY, RUGGIERO, COHEN, FISCHER  
AND BURNS, FEBRUARY 7, 1977

AS RE-REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, APRIL 25, 1977

## AN ACT

1 Relating to the implementation of the emergency telephone number  
2 "911"; providing a title; providing an intent; providing for  
3 a State plan; providing a system director; providing for  
4 telephone industry coordination; providing for coin telephone  
5 conversion; AND providing for system approval. ~~and providing~~ <—  
6 ~~an appropriation.~~

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. Short title.

10 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Emergency  
11 Telephone Act."

12 Section 2. Legislative intent.

13 The Legislature hereby finds and declares that it is in the  
14 public interest to shorten the time required for a citizen to  
15 request and receive emergency aid. There currently exist  
16 thousands of different emergency phone numbers throughout the

1 Commonwealth. Providing for a single, primary three-digit  
2 emergency number through which emergency services can be quickly  
3 and efficiently obtained would provide a significant  
4 contribution to law enforcement and other public efforts by  
5 making it easier to notify emergency center personnel. Such a  
6 simplified means of procuring emergency services will result in  
7 the saving of life, and reduction in the destruction of  
8 property, and quicker apprehension of criminals. It is the  
9 intent of the Legislature to establish and implement a cohesive  
10 Statewide emergency telephone number "911" plan which will  
11 provide citizens with rapid direct access to public emergency  
12 operation centers by dialing the telephone number "911," with  
13 the objective of reducing the response time to situations  
14 requiring law enforcement, fire, medical, rescue, and other  
15 emergency services.

16 Section 3. Definitions.

17 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall  
18 have, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the  
19 meanings given to them in this section:

20 "Agency" means that element of the Governor's Office  
21 designated by the Governor to carry out the purposes of this  
22 act.

23 "Local government" means any political subdivision or any  
24 combination or group thereof.

25 "Public agency" means the State, and any city, county, city  
26 and county, municipal corporation, chartered organization,  
27 public district, or public authority located in whole or in part  
28 within this Commonwealth which provides or has authority to  
29 provide fire fighting, law enforcement, ambulance, medical, or  
30 other emergency services.

1 "Public safety agency" means a functional division of a  
2 public agency which provides fire fighting, law enforcement,  
3 medical, or other emergency services.

4 Section 4. State plan.

5 The agency shall develop a Statewide emergency telephone  
6 number "911" system plan within 18 months of the effective date  
7 of this act. The plan shall provide for:

8 (1) The establishment of the public agency emergency  
9 telephone communications requirements for each entity of  
10 local government in the State; provided, however, that all  
11 applicants for the service herein established shall make  
12 arrangements with the telephone utility involved to serve the  
13 entire central office district or districts of said utility.

14 (2) A system to meet specific local government  
15 requirements. Such system shall include law enforcement, fire  
16 fighting, and emergency medical services, and may include  
17 other emergency services such as poison control, suicide  
18 prevention, and civil defense services.

19 (3) Identification of the mutual aid agreements  
20 necessary to obtain an effective "911" system.

21 (4) A funding provision which shall identify the cost  
22 necessary to implement the "911" system.

23 (5) A schedule which shall provide for full  
24 implementation of the Statewide emergency telephone number  
25 "911" system plan within seven years of the effective date of  
26 this act. The schedule shall be designed to permit orderly  
27 implementation and to accommodate local variances.

28 Section 5. Agency functions and responsibilities.

29 The agency designated by the Governor to carry out the  
30 purposes of this act shall promulgate, in accordance with the

1 act of July 31, 1968 (P.L.769, No.240), known as the  
2 "Commonwealth Documents Law," the necessary rules, procedures,  
3 and plan implementation schedules relating to public agencies  
4 for implementing and administering the plan. Said agency shall  
5 also have a director with the responsibility of carrying out the  
6 provisions of this act. He shall coordinate the plan development  
7 and implementation of the system with State, county, local, and  
8 private agencies. For the purposes of this act, the director is  
9 authorized to employ professional and clerical persons in such  
10 staff capacities as required for administrative or project team  
11 operations and to hire professional consultants pursuant to the  
12 limitations prescribed in the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177,  
13 No.175), known as "The Administrative Code of 1929". The  
14 director shall also coordinate with the Pennsylvania Public  
15 Utility Commission and with the Pennsylvania telephone utility  
16 or utilities involved for a timely implementation of "911".  
17 Nothing contained in this act shall be construed, or is intended  
18 to be construed, to limit the jurisdiction of the Pennsylvania  
19 Public Utility Commission over the Pennsylvania telephone  
20 utility involved or in such utility's participation in said  
21 implementation of "911".

22 Section 6. Coin telephones.

23 The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission shall establish  
24 rules to be followed by the telephone utilities in Pennsylvania  
25 designed toward directing the provision of coin free dialing of  
26 "911" calls wherever economically practicable and in the public  
27 interest.

28 Section 7. System implementation.

29 From the effective date of this act, all emergency telephone  
30 number "911" systems shall be established or expanded in

1 consonance with the provisions of the Statewide emergency  
2 telephone number "911" system plan. Preliminary review and  
3 approval procedures shall be established by the agency as  
4 provided in this act and implementation or expansion of such  
5 "911" systems shall be effected by a public agency only  
6 subsequent to such review and approval for compatibility with  
7 the Statewide plan. Nothing in this act shall be construed to  
8 prohibit or discourage the formation of multijurisdictional or  
9 regional systems, and any system established pursuant to this  
10 act may include the jurisdiction, or any portion thereof, of  
11 more than one public agency.

12 Section 8. Compliance.

13 The agency shall assist all public agencies in their efforts  
14 to carry out the intent of this act to insure compliance by such  
15 agencies with the Statewide plan.

16 ~~Section 9. Appropriation.~~

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17 ~~The sum of \$150,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to~~  
18 ~~the agency to carry out the purpose of this act. This~~  
19 ~~appropriation shall be for the fiscal year 1977-1978.~~

20 ~~Section 10 9.~~ Effective date.

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21 This act shall take effect immediately.