

Overview of SB 222

Governor Deal convened a Commission on 9-1-1 System Modernization and Balanced Funding Model which issued recommendations in 2014. This legislation incorporates recommendations from that Commission.

This bill is the product of a stakeholder group that met for more than a year to reach a consensus on how to tackle modernizing our 9-1-1 system and funding. The stakeholder group included telecom, both phone and cable, ACCG Board Members, Sheriff's Association, GMA, County Attorneys, 911 Director's Association, and APCO and NENA representatives. All members of that Stakeholder group and their memberships support the legislation before you today.

Section 1.

Creates the Local Government 9-1-1 Authority

- All local governments who operate a PSAP will be included.
- The authority will administer, collect, audit and remit 9-1-1 revenue back to jurisdiction's from it was came.
- The authority will also coordinate all planning and training for the 9-1-1 centers, provide an enforcement mechanism for providers who do not collect and remit the 9-1-1 fee.
- The Board will have 15 members all from jurisdictions which operate PSAPs; 2 elected officials from counties; 1 county administrator; 1 county finance director; 2 elected officials from cities; 1 member of NENA; 1 members APCO; 1 member from the 911 Director's Association; 2 sheriff's; 1 police chief; 2 members who represent the telecommunications industry; and the Director of GEMHSA.
- The authority will operate under the Administrative Procedures Act for enforcement matters.
- The authority may retain **up to** 3% of fees collected to provide for operation and auditing services.

- Provides for penalties for service providers who fail to register, or bill and remit 911 charges.

Section 2.

- Sets the up the Authority in the same manner as other state authorities.

Section 3.

- Updates definitions for regarding telephone service and subscribers to more adequately address current technology and business practices, particularly in the area of VoIP lines and call centers multi-line systems in large office buildings.

Section 4.

- Repeals the 9-1-1 Advisory Committee in O.C.G.A. 46-5-123.

Section 5.

- Lays out responsibilities of the authority including the requirement that all service suppliers register with the authority.

Section 6.

- Lists requirements of service suppliers for registration.
- Provides penalties for service suppliers who do not register.

Section 7.

- As of January 1, 2019, the authority will approve the creation of new PSAP's, ensuring it conforms to guidelines and procedures, however, the authority cannot deny any PSAP who conforms.

Section 8.

- Requires public agencies to assist the authority in carrying out their duties.

Section 9.

- Allows the authority to develop a 9-1-1 emblem to be utilized by public safety vehicles participating in a 9-1-1 system.

Section 10.

- Allows the authority to apply and accept federal funds or grant funds.
Note: This is a very important component, currently there is no state wide entity eligible to apply for federal grants to improve our 9-1-1 network.

Section 11.

- Adds the authority to the existing exemptions from liability in the operation of a 9-1-1.

Section 12.

- Clarifies billing procedures and payment of 9-1-1 fees for the service suppliers.
- Makes 9-1-1 fee \$1.50 across the board.
- Removes the requirement that the 9-1-1 be listed as a separate line item on subscriber bill, but requires that the service supplier keep the data in a format that is accessible by auditors.
- Deletes may and inserts that the Wireless 9-1-1 fee shall be \$1.50.
- Requires service suppliers to remit fees monthly to the authority.
- Eliminates the ability of a service supplier to charge local governments a cost recovery fee, which reduces the overall 9-1-1 fee received by local governments.

- Allows the service suppliers to bill subscribers cost recovery up to .45 cents per line. This charge would no longer come out of the 911 fee that goes to fund the 9-1-1 center.

Section 13.

- Bring parity to 9-1-1 by charging prepaid service the full \$1.50 9-1-1 fee. Currently, prepaid fee is .75 cents, and was set when the only prepaid service was calling cards. Now all prepaid services are sold on a 30 day cycle.

Section 14.

- Preserves any pending legal action or for any action against a service supplier prior January 1, 2019.