

SB 222 – Webinar
Hosted by ACCG
Debra Nesbit
April 20, 2017

Local Government 911 Authority Act
Passed Legislative Day 40
March 30, 2017



Advancing Georgia's Counties.

Thanks to our Legislative Sponsors

Senator John F. Kennedy, District, 18 – Macon



Representative Alan Powell, District 32
Hartwell
Chair of the House Public Safety Committee



Section 1.

All local governments who operate a Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) as of July 1, 2017, will be included as members of the Authority



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The Authority shall contract with the Department of Revenue to collect 9-1-1 fees from the service providers and remit those fees back to jurisdiction from which they came. The authority may negotiate the fee to be retained by the Department of Revenue (DOR), for administrative costs, up to 1 percent of funds collected.



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- The Authority may contract with DOR to provide the auditing services, but may also contract with other entities as well.
- The Authority may apply for, receive and administer federal funds.
- The Authority will study the 9-1-1 system as a whole and make recommendations for improvements.



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- 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 fees.



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The Board will have 16 members all from jurisdictions which operate PSAPs;
1 open seat and 1 elected official appointed by the Speaker of the House;
1 open seat and 1 elected official appointed by the Lt. Governor;
1 county elected official;
1 county manager or county finance director;
1 elected official or city manager/finance director from a city;
3 members from the 911 Director's Association;
1 sheriff;
1 police chief;
1 fire chief;
1 member who represents the telecommunications industry;
The Director of the GEMHSA;
The Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Public Safety (DPS);
GPSTC (non – voting)
GTA (non-voting)



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- * The authority will operate under the Administrative Procedures Act for enforcement matters.
- * Effective January 1, 2019, all 9-1-1 fees imposed by local governments for the provision of 9-1-1 services and collected by services suppliers shall be sent to the DOR who will handle collection and disbursement of funds on behalf of the Authority.



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- * The DOR shall retain 1 percent of fees collected and remit the funds to Authority on a monthly basis to provide for operations and administration of the Authority.
- * All service providers must submit reports as outlined by the Authority to the DOR along with funds by the 20th day of the month in which they are collected.
- * The DOR must remit those funds to the local governments within 30 days.



- * The Authority will have full access to all information submitted by the service suppliers to the DOR
- * Provides for monetary penalties for service providers who fail to register, or bill and remit 9-1-1 charges
- * Providers can be audited no more than once every three years.



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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.



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Section 5.

- Lays out responsibilities of the Authority which includes development of guidelines for implementing a state-wide emergency 9-1-1 system.
- Requires the Authority maintain the registry of all service suppliers.

Section 6.

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



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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 11A.

Sets forth service delivery parameters for 9-1-1 emergency and non emergency calls.



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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 fee 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 DOR on behalf Authority.



Section 12 continued

- Eliminates the ability of a service supplier to charge local governments a cost recovery fee, which will increase the overall 9-1-1 fee received by local governments to a full \$1.50.
- Allows the service suppliers to bill their subscribers cost recovery up to 45 cents per line. This charge would no longer come out of the 911 fee that goes to the local government to fund the 9-1-1 center.



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Section 13.

- Brings parity to 9-1-1 fees 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.

Effective January 1, 2019



Section 14.

The effective date of this act is July 1, 2017, for the purposes of creating the Authority and the enactment of Section 11A.

The provision regarding the submission of billing practices by the service suppliers to the Authority for approval shall be effective July 1, 2018.

For all other purposes the Act shall become effective on January 1, 2019.
Preserves any pending legal action or for any action against a service supplier prior January 1, 2019.



Questions?



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Thank you for your time today

If you need additional information or assistance please contact:

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