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WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

SEVENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION, 2008

ENROLLED

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

FOR

Senate Bill No. 224

(SENATOR KESSLER, *original sponsor*)

[Passed March 8, 2008; in effect ninety days from passage.]

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OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE 

ENROLLED

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

FOR

Senate Bill No. 224

(BY SENATORS TOMBLIN, MR. PRESIDENT, AND CARUTH,
BY REQUEST OF THE EXECUTIVE)

[Passed March 8, 2008; in effect ninety days from passage.]

AN ACT to authorize the county commission of Jefferson County to create a joint emergency services agency; legislative findings; and management by a joint emergency services board.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

JEFFERSON COUNTY JOINT EMERGENCY SERVICES AGENCY.

§1. Legislative findings.

1 (a) The Legislature finds that:

2 (1) Jefferson County has a demonstrated population
3 growth rate history;

4 (2) Small separate volunteer emergency services
5 agencies cannot adequately serve the people of
6 Jefferson County;

7 (3) The municipalities, communities and the county
8 cannot separately finance individual volunteer
9 emergency services agencies;

10 (4) Jefferson County is in a unique position that it has
11 the only national historical park in the state which
12 attracts thousands of visitors annually;

13 (5) The national historical park with its historical
14 buildings and visitors places an undue burden on the
15 small individual emergency services agencies in
16 Jefferson County; and

17 (6) An agency that combines joint emergency services
18 would enhance Jefferson County's ability to serve its
19 people.

20 (b) Therefore, the Legislature declares that since
21 Jefferson County is in a unique situation, it is in the
22 public interest that the county commission of Jefferson
23 County be authorized to create a joint emergency
24 services agency.

**§2. Authorizing creation of the Jefferson County Joint
Emergency Services Agency.**

1 (a) In lieu of creating both an emergency ambulance
2 service authority and a separate county fire association
3 or county fire board, the county commission of
4 Jefferson County may enact an ordinance creating a
5 combined joint emergency services agency to provide
6 emergency services and emergency response services.

7 (b) The agency shall possess all of the rights and
8 responsibilities conferred upon emergency ambulance
9 service authorities, county fire associations and county
10 fire boards that are not otherwise inconsistent with
11 state law and local ordinance.

§3. Joint Emergency Services Board.

1 (a) By ordinance, the county commission of Jefferson
2 County may create a Joint Emergency Services Board
3 to oversee the management and control of the agency.

4 (b) The board shall consist of at least the following
5 individuals who shall be appointed by the county
6 commission:

7 (1) A representative from an emergency medical
8 service;

9 (2) A representative from a fire protection service; and

10 (3) A citizen member who is not employed with an
11 emergency medical service, a fire protection service or
12 the county commission.

13 (c) All board members shall be residents of Jefferson
14 County.

15 (d) The board members shall serve for staggered terms

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16 of three years and are limited to two consecutive terms.
17 In the event of a vacancy, a successor shall be
18 appointed from the same service area as the unexpired
19 representative's term. Members shall continue to serve
20 until their successors have been appointed.

21 (e) A majority of the members of the board constitutes
22 a quorum.

The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

Cl. White
.....
Chairman Senate Committee

Jim
.....
Chairman House Committee

Originated in the Senate.

In effect ninety days from passage.

Russell Atkins
.....
Clerk of the Senate

Gregg M. Smith
.....
Clerk of the House of Delegates

Carl Ray Tomblin
.....
President of the Senate

R. B.
.....
Speaker House of Delegates

The within *is appended* this
the *18th* Day of *April* 2008.

Jeff Kanawha
.....
Governor

PRESENTED TO THE
GOVERNOR

MAR 25 2008

Time 3:40 pm