

1 **H. B. 2013**

2  
3 (By Delegates Hamilton and Staggers)  
4 [Introduced January 12, 2011; referred to the  
5 Committee on Political Subdivisions then the Judiciary.]  
6

7 **FISCAL**  
8 **NOTE**

9  
10 A BILL to amend and reenact §24-6-5 of the Code of West Virginia,  
11 1931, as amended, relating to requirements for enhanced  
12 emergency telephone systems and county emergency dispatch  
13 centers.

14 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

15 That §24-6-5 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended,  
16 be amended and reenacted to read as follows:

17 **ARTICLE 6. LOCAL EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SYSTEM.**

18 **§24-6-5. Enhanced emergency telephone system requirements.**

19 (a) An enhanced emergency telephone system, at a minimum,  
20 shall provide that:

21 (1) All the territory in the county, including every municipal  
22 corporation in the county, which is served by telephone company  
23 central office equipment that will permit such a system to be  
24 established shall be included in the system: *Provided, That if a*

1 portion of the county or a portion of a municipal corporation  
2 within the county is already being served by an enhanced emergency  
3 telephone system, that portion of the county or municipality may be  
4 excluded from the county enhanced emergency telephone system;

5 (2) Every emergency service provider that provides emergency  
6 service within the territory of a county participate in the system;

7 (3) Each county answering point be operated constantly;

8 (4) Each emergency service provider participating in the  
9 system maintain a telephone number in addition to the one provided  
10 ~~for~~ in the system; and

11 (5) If the county answering point personnel reasonably  
12 determine that a call is not an emergency, the personnel provide  
13 the caller with the number of the appropriate emergency service  
14 provider.

15 (b) To the extent possible, enhanced emergency telephone  
16 systems shall be centralized.

17 (c) In developing an enhanced emergency telephone system, ~~the~~  
18 a county commission or the West Virginia State Police shall seek  
19 the advice of both the telephone companies providing local exchange  
20 service within the county and the local emergency providers.

21 (d) As a condition of employment, any person employed to act  
22 as the director of an emergency dispatch center who dispatches  
23 emergency calls or supervises the dispatching of emergency call  
24 takers shall be subject to an investigation of their character and

1 background. This investigation shall include, at a minimum, a  
2 criminal background check conducted by the State Police at its  
3 expense. A felony conviction shall preclude such person from  
4 holding any of these positions. ~~This requirement applies~~  
5 ~~prospectively. The requirement takes effect on July 1, 2006.~~

6 (e) As a condition of continued employment, persons employed  
7 to dispatch emergency calls in county emergency dispatch centers  
8 shall successfully complete:

9 (1) A forty-hour nationally recognized training course for  
10 dispatchers within one year of the date of their employment; except  
11 that persons employed to dispatch emergency calls prior to the  
12 effective date of this subsection, as a condition of continuing  
13 employment, shall successfully complete such a course not later  
14 than July 1, 1995. and,

15 (2) An additional nationally recognized emergency medical  
16 dispatch course or an emergency medical dispatch course approved by  
17 the Office of Emergency Medical Services not later than July 1,  
18 2013, or if employed subsequent to July 1, 2013, within one year of  
19 the date of employment.

20 (f) On or before July 1, 2013, the director of each county  
21 emergency dispatch center shall develop policies and procedures to  
22 establish a protocol for dispatching emergency medical calls  
23 implementing a nationally recognized emergency medical dispatch  
24 program or an emergency medical dispatch program approved by the

1 Office of Emergency Medical Services.

2       ~~(f)~~ (g) Each county or municipality shall appoint for each  
3 answering point an enhanced emergency telephone system advisory  
4 board consisting of at least six members to monitor the operation  
5 of the system. The board shall be appointed by the county or  
6 municipality and shall include at least one member from affected  
7 fire service providers, law-enforcement providers, emergency  
8 medical providers and emergency services providers participating in  
9 the system and at least one member from the county or municipality.  
10 The board may make recommendations to the county or municipality  
11 concerning the operation of the system.

12       In addition, the director of the county or municipal enhanced  
13 telephone system shall serve as an ex officio member of the  
14 advisory board. The initial advisory board shall serve staggered  
15 terms of one, two and three years. The initial terms of these  
16 appointees shall commence on July 1, 1994. All future appointments  
17 shall be for terms of three years, except that an appointment to  
18 fill a vacancy shall be for the unexpired term. All members shall  
19 serve without compensation. The board shall adopt such policies,  
20 rules and regulations as are necessary for its own guidance. The  
21 board shall meet monthly, ~~on the day of each month~~ or  
22 alternatively, quarterly each year, on days which the board may  
23 designate. The board may make recommendations to the county or  
24 municipality concerning the operation of the system.

1       ~~(g)~~ (h) Any advisory board established prior to January 1,  
2 1994, shall have three years to meet the criteria of subsection ~~(e)~~  
3 (g) of this section.

4       ~~(h)~~ (i) Nothing herein contained shall be construed to prohibit  
5 or discourage in any way the establishment of multijurisdictional  
6 or regional systems, or multijurisdictional or regional agreements  
7 for the establishment of enhanced emergency telephone systems, and  
8 any system established pursuant to this article may include the  
9 territory of more than one public agency, or may include only a  
10 portion of the territory of a public agency.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill relates to requirements for enhanced emergency telephone systems and county emergency dispatch centers. The bill requires emergency dispatch centers to develop policies and procedures to establish a protocol for dispatching emergency medical calls .

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from the present law, and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.