

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2018 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 4197

BY DELEGATES SUMMERS, WESTFALL, WHITE, CRISS,

AND ROHRBACH

[Introduced January 18, 2018; Referred
to the Committee on Fire Departments and
Emergency Medical Services then Health and Human
Resources.]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §24-6-5 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, related
2 to requiring persons employed to dispatch emergency calls in county emergency dispatch
3 centers to complete a training course in emergency cardiovascular care for telephonic
4 cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 6. LOCAL EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SYSTEM.

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

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

2 (1) All the territory in the county, including every municipal corporation in the county, which
3 is served by telephone company central office equipment that will permit such a system to be
4 established shall be included in the system: *Provided*, That if a portion of the county or a portion
5 of a municipal corporation within the county is already being served by an enhanced emergency
6 telephone system, that portion of the county or municipality may be excluded from the county
7 enhanced emergency telephone system;

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

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

11 (4) Each emergency service provider participating in the system maintain a telephone
12 number in addition to the one provided in the system; and

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

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

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

20 (d) As a condition of employment, a person employed as the director of an emergency
21 dispatch center who dispatches emergency calls or supervises the dispatching of emergency call
22 takers is subject to an investigation of their character and background. This investigation shall
23 include, at a minimum, a criminal background check conducted by the State Police at its expense.
24 A felony conviction shall preclude a person from holding any of these positions.

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

27 (1) A forty-hour nationally recognized training course for dispatchers within one year of the
28 date of their employment; and

29 (2) A nationally recognized training course in emergency cardiovascular care for
30 telephonic cardiopulmonary resuscitation. The instruction shall incorporate protocols for out of
31 hospital cardiac arrest and compression-only cardiopulmonary resuscitation. The requirements
32 of this subdivision are effective not later than July 1, 2019, or if employed subsequent to July 1,
33 2018, within one year of the date of employment; and

34 ~~(2)~~ (3) An additional nationally recognized emergency medical dispatch course or an
35 emergency medical dispatch course approved by the Office of Emergency Medical Services not
36 later than July 1, 2013, or if employed subsequent to July 1, 2013, within one year of the date of
37 employment.

38 (f) On or before July 1, 2013, the director of each county emergency dispatch center shall
39 develop policies and procedures to establish a protocol for dispatching emergency medical calls
40 implementing a nationally recognized emergency medical dispatch program or an emergency
41 medical dispatch program approved by the Office of Emergency Medical Services: *Provided*, That
42 a county s emergency dispatch center, which utilizes a one-button transfer system, may continue
43 to use this system, if the county s emergency dispatch center establishes policies and procedures
44 which require the agency to whom the call is transferred to remain on the call until a first responder
45 arrives.

46 (g) Each county or municipality shall appoint for each answering point an enhanced
47 emergency telephone system advisory board consisting of at least six members to monitor the
48 operation of the system. The board shall be appointed by the county or municipality and shall
49 include at least one member from affected:

50 (1) Fire service providers;

51 (2) Law-enforcement providers;

52 (3) Emergency medical providers;

53 (4) Emergency services providers participating in the system; and

54 (5) Counties or municipalities.

55 The director of the county or municipal enhanced telephone system shall serve as an ex
56 officio member of the advisory board.

57 (h) The initial advisory board shall serve staggered terms of one, two, and three years.
58 The initial terms of these appointees shall commence on July 1, 1994. All future appointments
59 shall be for terms of three years, except that an appointment to fill a vacancy shall be for the
60 unexpired term. All members shall serve without compensation. The board shall adopt such
61 policies, rules, and regulations as are necessary for its own guidance. The board shall meet
62 monthly, or quarterly. The board may make recommendations to the county or municipality
63 concerning the operation of the system.

64 (i) Nothing herein contained ~~shall~~ may be construed to prohibit or discourage in any way
65 the establishment of multijurisdictional or regional systems, or multijurisdictional or regional
66 agreements for the establishment of enhanced emergency telephone systems, and any system
67 established pursuant to this article may include the territory of more than one public agency, or
68 may include only a portion of the territory of a public agency.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to require persons employed to dispatch emergency calls
in county emergency dispatch centers to complete a training course in emergency
cardiovascular care for telephonic cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

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