AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONSOLIDATION OF PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINTS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. Section 28-24 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective October 1, 2019):

(a) There is established a Division of State-Wide Emergency Telecommunications which shall be within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection. The Division of State-Wide Emergency Telecommunications shall be responsible for developing and maintaining a state-wide emergency service telecommunications policy. In connection with said policy, the division shall:

(1) Develop a state-wide emergency service telecommunications plan specifying emergency police, fire and medical service telecommunications systems needed to provide coordinated emergency service telecommunications to all state residents, including the physically disabled;
(2) Develop and administer an enhanced emergency 9-1-1 program, which shall provide for: (A) The replacement of existing 9-1-1 terminal equipment for each public safety answering point; (B) the subsidization of regional public safety emergency telecommunications centers, with enhanced subsidization for municipalities with a population of forty thousand or more; (C) the establishment of [a transition grant program] incentives to encourage regionalization of public safety answering points, which incentives shall include, but not be limited to, a transition grant program; (D) the establishment of a regional emergency telecommunications service credit in order to support regional dispatch services; and (E) the implementation of the next generation 9-1-1 telecommunication system;

(3) Provide technical telecommunications assistance to state and local police, fire and emergency medical service agencies;

(4) Provide frequency coordination for such agencies;

(5) Coordinate and assist in state-wide planning for 9-1-1, E 9-1-1 and the next generation 9-1-1 telecommunication systems, with a focus on facilitating the regionalization of public safety answering points;

(6) Review and make recommendations concerning proposed legislation affecting emergency service telecommunications;

(7) Review and make recommendations to the General Assembly concerning emergency service telecommunications funding, including ways to reduce costs by removing barriers to consolidation of existing public safety answering points; and

(8) On or before January first of each year, prepare the annual budget for the use of funds from the Enhanced 9-1-1 Telecommunications Fund and submit such budget to the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management for the secretary's review and approval. On or before January fifteenth of each year, said secretary shall submit a report concerning the proposed use of such funds to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance
of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, finance, revenue and bonding, and public safety in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a.

(b) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, establishing eligibility standards for state financial assistance to local or regional police, fire and emergency medical service agencies providing emergency service telecommunications. Not later than April 1, 1997, the commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, in order to carry out the provisions of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section.

(c) Within a time period determined by the commissioner to ensure the availability of funds for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1997, to the regional emergency telecommunications centers within the state, and not later than April first of each year thereafter, the commissioner shall determine the amount of funding needed for the development and administration of the enhanced emergency 9-1-1 program. The commissioner shall specify the expenses associated with (1) the purchase, installation and maintenance of new public safety answering point terminal equipment, (2) the implementation of the subsidy program, as described in subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section, (3) the establishment of incentives to encourage regionalization of public safety answering points, including the implementation of the transition grant program, described in subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section, (4) the implementation of the regional emergency telecommunications service credit, as described in subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section, provided, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2001, and each fiscal year thereafter, such credit for coordinated medical emergency direction services as provided in regulations adopted under this section shall be based upon the factor of thirty cents per capita and shall not be reduced each year, (5) the training of personnel, as necessary, (6) recurring expenses and future capital costs associated with the telecommunications
network used to provide emergency 9-1-1 service and the public safety services data networks, (7) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2001, and each fiscal year thereafter, the collection, maintenance and reporting of emergency medical services data, as required under subparagraph (A) of subdivision (8) of section 19a-177, provided the amount of expenses specified under this subdivision shall not exceed two hundred fifty thousand dollars in any fiscal year, (8) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2001, and each fiscal year thereafter, the initial training of emergency medical dispatch personnel, the provision of an emergency medical dispatch priority reference card set and emergency medical dispatch training and continuing education pursuant to subdivisions (3) and (4) of subsection (g) of section 28-25b, (9) the administration of the enhanced emergency 9-1-1 program by the Division of State-Wide Emergency Telecommunications, as the commissioner determines to be reasonably necessary, and (10) the implementation and maintenance of the public safety data network established pursuant to section 29-1j. The commissioner shall communicate the commissioner's findings to the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority not later than April first of each year.

(d) The division may apply for, receive and distribute any federal funds available for emergency service telecommunications. The division shall deposit such federal funds in the Enhanced 9-1-1 Telecommunications Fund established pursuant to section 28-30a.

(e) The division shall work in cooperation with the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority to carry out the purposes of this section.

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