

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 178

BY SENATOR MIZELL

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request communications districts throughout the state to implement necessary technology to receive text messages for 911 emergency services.

WHEREAS, 911 is the primary emergency telephone number that provides a means of communication which enables law enforcement and public safety agencies to respond to emergency situations in a more effective, expedient, and efficient manner; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislature, in 1979, enacted the first 911 district in Lafayette Parish; a few years later, communications districts in Jefferson Parish, St. Bernard Parish, Plaquemines Parish, and LaFourche Parish were created and in 1995, legislation was enacted that provided a framework for other parishes to create a communications district to respond to emergency situations; and

WHEREAS, telecommunication technology has rapidly changed over the years, and one important technological development allowed for a 911 system to receive text messages from a person to report an emergency, which is significant in instances where the caller is impaired, has a medical emergency leaving them unable to speak, or is in a dangerous situation when speaking out loud is not an option; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2024 Statewide 911 Consolidated Report published by the Louisiana 911 Director's Consortium, the Louisiana Chapter of the National Emergency Number Association (NENA), and the Louisiana Chapter of the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO), twenty-five parishes are receiving text messages for emergency services or have requested for the service to begin, leaving the majority of communications districts not yet receiving text messages in emergency situations; and

WHEREAS, the ability of a communications district system to receive text messages in emergency situations is vital in certain situations and each district should invest and implement this technology for the benefit of residents and visitors of the district.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request each communications district that currently does not receive text messages for emergency services to upgrade to a system with the capabilities to receive text messages and begin receiving information via text message no later than December 31, 2024.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana 911 Director's Consortium, the Louisiana Chapter of NENA, and the Louisiana Chapter of APCO ensure that each communications district has resources, instruction, and any information needed to meet the December 31, 2024, deadline.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana 911 Director's Consortium, the Louisiana Chapter of NENA, and the Louisiana Chapter of APCO report to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and International Affairs and the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library no later than February 1, 2025, a list of the communications districts with text message technology that is fully operational by December 31, 2024, and a list of the communications districts unable to receive text messages and summary of the obstacles and challenges facing such districts to obtain or implement the necessary technology to receive text messages.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Louisiana 911 Director's Consortium, the Louisiana Chapter of NENA, and the Louisiana Chapter of APCO.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE