

2013 -- S 0716

=====
LC01934
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

—————
A N A C T

RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS - 911 EMERGENCY TELEPHONE
NUMBER ACT

Introduced By: Senators DiPalma, Pichardo, Pearson, Bates, and Cool Rumsey

Date Introduced: March 13, 2013

Referred To: Senate Commerce

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 39-21.1-5 of the General Laws in Chapter 39-21.1 entitled "911
2 Emergency Telephone Number Act" is hereby amended to read as follows:
3 **39-21.1-5. Establishment of 9-1-1 service.** -- (a) The state shall establish a single central
4 statewide emergency 911 system equipped with selective call routing, automatic number
5 identification, and automatic location identification. All telecommunication service providers
6 who operate within this state shall provide access to the E 9-1-1 Uniform Emergency Telephone
7 System with selective call routing, automatic number identification and automatic location
8 identification capabilities in accordance with this chapter, with the rules and regulations of the
9 Federal Communications Commission and of the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission and
10 with such other rules and regulations promulgated by the 9-1-1 authority. Before the Public
11 Utilities Commission shall grant any license, permit, power, or authority to operate or shall
12 approve any tariff, rate, or similar compensation measure to any telephone common carrier or
13 telecommunication services provider pursuant to title 39 of the general laws, it shall obtain a
14 certificate of compliance from the 911 authority, certifying that the telephone common carrier or
15 telecommunication services provider that is seeking such grant or approval is in compliance with
16 the standards of quality of service, performance of service and technological compliance adopted
17 by the 911 authority pursuant to chapter 21 of title 39 of the general laws. No such license,
18 permit, power, or authority to operate shall be granted or any tariff, rate, or similar compensation

1 measure be approved until and unless the telephone common carrier or telecommunication
2 service provider is in full compliance with such standards.

3 (b) The digits "911" shall be the primary emergency telephone number within the state.

4 (c) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prohibit or discourage the municipalities
5 to maintain separate secondary backup telephone numbers for emergency and nonemergency
6 telephone calls. Dissemination of the information contained in the data base for any other than
7 emergency purpose is prohibited. The 911 emergency telephone number is not intended as a total
8 replacement for the telephone service of the public safety agencies. The public safety answering
9 point will not use the 911 system for administrative purposes, for placing outgoing calls, or for
10 receiving nonemergency calls.

11 (d) Any addition to the basic 911 system that may be required by any municipality may
12 be made at the municipality's expense, provided that the addition is approved by the 911
13 authority.

14 (e) (1) The 911 authority and the telephone common carrier contracting with the
15 authority shall not be liable for any inadequate data base information submitted to the 911
16 authority by the municipality, its agents or servants.

17 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 31 of title 9, the telephone common
18 carrier, its agents and employees, is hereby indemnified and held harmless by the 911 authority
19 and the state for civil damages for any action or omission in connection with the 911 or E-911
20 systems unless the action or omission constitutes gross negligence or wanton and willful
21 misconduct.

22 (f) Any expense incurred by a municipality shall not be deemed a state mandate pursuant
23 to section 45-13-9.

24 (g) The telephone common carrier shall not issue or permit the usage of any three (3)
25 digit telephone number for emergency purposes other than the digits "911" as provided in this
26 chapter.

27 (h) The state of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, the E 9-1-1 Uniform
28 Emergency Telephone System Authority, local public service answering points, E 9-1-1 service
29 providers, including telephone common carriers and telecommunication services providers and
30 their respective employees, directors, officers, representatives or agents shall not be liable to any
31 person for civil damages resulting from or caused by any act or omission in the development,
32 design, installation, operation, maintenance, performance or provision of E 9-1-1 service, except
33 to the extent due directly to its willful misconduct or gross negligence. Also, no provider of E 9-
34 1-1 service, including a telecommunication services provider shall be liable to any person who

1 uses E 9-1-1 service, for the release of subscriber information, including but not limited to, billing
2 information required under this act, to any public safety answering point or to the state of Rhode
3 Island or the E 9-1-1 Uniform Emergency Telephone System Authority.

4 (i) Not later than January 1, 2014, the 911 authority shall initiate a pilot program
5 providing direct dispatch services to participating municipalities. Such participation shall be at
6 the request of the city or town.

7 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

=====
LC01934
=====

EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS - 911 EMERGENCY TELEPHONE
NUMBER ACT

- 1 This act would require the 911 authority to initiate a combined fire and police direct
- 2 dispatch pilot program by January 1, 2014.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

=====
LC01934
=====