



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 459**

January Session, 2025

House Bill No. 6908

*House of Representatives, April 2, 2025*

The Committee on Public Safety and Security reported through REP. BOYD of the 50th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

**AN ACT REQUIRING A STUDY OF COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS  
USED BY PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL AND ESTABLISHING A  
WORKING GROUP TO STUDY THE CONSOLIDATION OF PUBLIC  
SAFETY ANSWERING POINTS.**

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

- 1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Division of State-Wide
- 2 Emergency Telecommunications within the Department of Emergency
- 3 Services and Public Protection shall study the policies and practices
- 4 related to the use of communication systems among public safety
- 5 personnel, identify any concerns regarding the sharing of private
- 6 information, such as health information, through such systems and
- 7 recommend appropriate changes to such policies and practices
- 8 regarding the sharing of such information. In conducting such study,
- 9 the division shall consult with the Emergency Medical Services
- 10 Advisory Board, established pursuant to section 19a-178a of the general
- 11 statutes, the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control, established
- 12 pursuant to section 7-323k of the general statutes, and the Police Officer
- 13 Standards and Training Council, established pursuant to section 7-294b

14 of the general statutes.

15 (b) Not later than January 1, 2026, the division shall submit a report,  
16 in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,  
17 to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having  
18 cognizance of matters relating to public safety and security. Such report  
19 shall include the results of the study conducted pursuant to subsection  
20 (a) of this section and any recommendations for changes to statutes,  
21 policies and practices related to the use of communication systems  
22 among public safety personnel.

23 Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a working group  
24 to study the current system of public safety answering points and make  
25 recommendations for consolidating such answering points while  
26 prioritizing the need to ensure public safety. The working group shall  
27 consider and make recommendations regarding: (1) The establishment  
28 of state goals regarding consolidation, (2) the definition of "regional  
29 public safety answering point", (3) any challenges to consolidation  
30 presented by existing collective bargaining agreements, (4) issues that  
31 may arise in municipalities that would no longer have an individual  
32 physically located within the municipality to act as a dispatcher at all  
33 times after consolidation, (5) time frames for consolidation, (6) where  
34 and how to locate regional public safety answering points, (7) ways to  
35 enhance the skills of telecommunicators, as defined in section 28-30 of  
36 the general statutes, and personnel providing emergency medical  
37 dispatch, as defined in section 28-25 of the general statutes, including  
38 recommendations regarding training standards and performance  
39 accountability, (8) the governance structure for regional public safety  
40 answering points, and (9) any other related issues the working group  
41 deems appropriate.

42 (b) The working group shall consist of the following members:

43 (1) A representative of an organization of municipal leaders that  
44 represents the towns of the state;

45 (2) A representative of a labor organization representing employees

- 46 of public safety answering points;
- 47 (3) A representative of an association of police chiefs;
- 48 (4) A representative of an association of professional firefighters;
- 49 (5) A member of the joint standing committee of the General  
50 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public safety and  
51 security;
- 52 (6) A current or former director of a regional public safety answering  
53 point;
- 54 (7) A representative of an association of managers of emergency  
55 communication centers;
- 56 (8) A representative of the Emergency Medical Services Advisory  
57 Board established under section 19a-178a of the general statutes;
- 58 (9) A representative of an association of fire chiefs;
- 59 (10) A representative of an organization that advocates for the  
60 interests of small towns in the state;
- 61 (11) A representative of an association of councils of government;
- 62 (12) A member of the joint standing committee of the General  
63 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to planning and  
64 development;
- 65 (13) The commanding officer of the Division of State Police within the  
66 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, or the  
67 commanding officer's designee;
- 68 (14) The director of the Division of State-Wide Emergency  
69 Telecommunications within the Department of Emergency Services and  
70 Public Protection, or the director's designee; and
- 71 (15) The undersecretary of the Intergovernmental Policy and  
72 Planning Division within the Office of Policy and Management, or the

73 undersecretary's designee.

74 (c) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection  
75 shall appoint the members described in subdivisions (1) to (12),  
76 inclusive, of subsection (b) of this section.

77 (d) Any member of the working group appointed under subdivisions  
78 (1) to (12), inclusive, of subsection (b) of this section may be a member  
79 of the General Assembly.

80 (e) All initial appointments to the working group shall be made not  
81 later than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy  
82 shall be filled by the appointing authority.

83 (f) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection  
84 shall select the chairpersons of the working group from among the  
85 members of the working group. Such chairpersons shall schedule the  
86 first meeting of the working group, which shall be held not later than  
87 sixty days after the effective date of this section. Such chairpersons may  
88 establish subcommittees of the members as needed and designate a  
89 chairperson of each such subcommittee.

90 (g) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the  
91 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public safety  
92 and security shall serve as administrative staff of the working group.

93 (h) The working group shall submit, in accordance with the  
94 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing  
95 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
96 relating to public safety and security and planning and development:  
97 (1) An interim report on the findings and recommendations of the  
98 working group not later than February 1, 2026, and (2) a final report on  
99 the findings and recommendations of the working group not later than  
100 January 1, 2027. The working group shall terminate on the date that it  
101 submits such final report or January 1, 2027, whichever is later.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section

**PS**      *Joint Favorable*

*The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.*

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### **OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:** None

### **Explanation**

The bill, which (1) requires the Division of State-Wide Emergency Telecommunications within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection to study and submit a report on communication systems used by public safety personnel and (2) establishes a working group to study the current system of public safety answering points, results in no fiscal impact because the division and the working group have the expertise to meet the requirements of the bill.

### **The Out Years**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:** None

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**OLR Bill Analysis**

**HB 6908**

***AN ACT REQUIRING A STUDY OF COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS USED BY PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL AND ESTABLISHING A WORKING GROUP TO STUDY THE CONSOLIDATION OF PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINTS.***

**SUMMARY**

The Office of Legislative Research does not analyze Special Acts.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 22    Nay 7    (03/18/2025)