



House of Representatives

File No. 904

General Assembly

January Session, 2025

(Reprint of File No. 459)

House Bill No. 6908
As Amended by House Amendment
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
May 12, 2025

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

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

- 45 (1) A representative of an organization of municipal leaders that
46 represents the towns of the state;
- 47 (2) A representative of a labor organization representing employees
48 of public safety answering points;
- 49 (3) A representative of an association of police chiefs;
- 50 (4) A representative of an association of professional firefighters;
- 51 (5) A current or former director of a regional public safety answering
52 point;
- 53 (6) A representative of an association of managers of emergency
54 communication centers;
- 55 (7) A representative of the Emergency Medical Services Advisory
56 Board established under section 19a-178a of the general statutes;
- 57 (8) A representative of an association of fire chiefs;
- 58 (9) A representative of an organization that advocates for the interests
59 of small towns in the state;
- 60 (10) A representative of an association of councils of government;
- 61 (11) The commanding officer of the Division of State Police within the
62 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, or the
63 commanding officer's designee;
- 64 (12) The director of the Division of State-Wide Emergency
65 Telecommunications within the Department of Emergency Services and
66 Public Protection, or the director's designee; and
- 67 (13) The undersecretary of the Intergovernmental Policy and
68 Planning Division within the Office of Policy and Management, or the
69 undersecretary's designee.
- 70 (c) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection

71 shall appoint the members described in subdivisions (1) to (10),
72 inclusive, of subsection (b) of this section.

73 (d) All initial appointments to the working group shall be made not
74 later than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy
75 shall be filled by the appointing authority.

76 (e) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection
77 shall select the chairpersons of the working group from among the
78 members of the working group. Such chairpersons shall schedule the
79 first meeting of the working group, which shall be held not later than
80 sixty days after the effective date of this section. Such chairpersons may
81 establish subcommittees of the members as needed and designate a
82 chairperson of each such subcommittee.

83 (f) The working group shall submit, in accordance with the
84 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing
85 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
86 relating to public safety and security and planning and development:
87 (1) An interim report on the findings and recommendations of the
88 working group not later than February 1, 2026, and (2) a final report on
89 the findings and recommendations of the working group not later than
90 January 1, 2027. The working group shall terminate on the date that it
91 submits such final report or January 1, 2027, whichever is later.

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

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.

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.

House "A" moves the working group from the General Assembly to the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection and removes two members, resulting in the impact described above.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 6908 (as amended by House "A")**

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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)