



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Raised Bill No. 6908

LCO No. 4305



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY

Introduced by:
(PS)

***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.

<p>This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:</p>
--

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section

PS *Joint Favorable*