

2019 -- H 5568

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

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A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- 911 EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBER ACT

Introduced By: Representatives Ackerman, Shekarchi, Casimiro, O'Brien, and Vella-Wilkinson

Date Introduced: February 27, 2019

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 39-21.1-8 of the General Laws in Chapter 39-21.1 entitled "911
2 Emergency Telephone Number Act" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **39-21.1-8. Emergency services included in system.**

4 (a) The 911 system shall be capable of transmitting requests for law enforcement,
5 firefighting, and emergency medical and ambulance services to a public safety agency or agencies
6 that provide the requested service at the place where the call originates. In response to requests
7 for emergency medical or ambulance services, the 911 system dispatchers shall also provide for
8 the communication of instructions to callers during the period before the arrival of emergency
9 responders. By July 1, 2020, the ~~A~~ 911 system shall include telecommunicator cardiopulmonary
10 resuscitation ("T-CPR"), provided by certified emergency medical dispatchers (EMD), and any
11 other requirements pursuant to § 23-4.1-3(c). The 911 system may also provide for transmittal of
12 requests for other emergency services, such as poison control, suicide prevention, and civil
13 defense. Conferencing capability with counseling, aid to persons with disabilities, and other
14 services as deemed necessary for emergency response determination may be provided by the 911
15 system.

16 (b) Any unit of any agency or municipality in this state which provides law enforcement,
17 firefighting, medical, or ambulance services to an area shall be part of the 911 system. The 911
18 public safety answering point may transmit emergency response requests to private safety
19 agencies.

1 (c) Automatic intrusion alarms and other automatic alerting devices shall not be installed
2 so as to cause the number 911 to be dialed in order to directly access emergency services.

3 (d) A call review and quality improvement program on all cardiac arrest calls from the
4 emergency telephone system shall be established.

5 (e) At least one 911 system operator trained in telecommunicator cardiopulmonary
6 resuscitation ("T-CPR") shall be on duty at all times to coach a person calling in about a cardiac
7 arrest incident until the rescue or other emergency service unit arrives.

8 (f) No 911 system operator who renders emergency assistance to a person in need thereof
9 shall be liable for civil damages which result from acts or omissions by such person rendering the
10 emergency care, which may constitute ordinary negligence. This immunity does not apply to acts
11 or omission constituting gross negligence or willful or wanton conduct.

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

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- 911 EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBER ACT

1 This act would establish an emergency telephone system call review and quality
2 improvement and would require at least one 911 system operator trained in telecommunicator
3 cardiopulmonary resuscitation be on duty at all time.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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