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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 PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS - E-911 UNIFORM EMERGENCY
TELEPHONE SYSTEM DIVISION

Introduced By: Senators McCaffrey, and Goodwin

Date Introduced: January 31, 2019

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 39-21 of the General Laws entitled "E-911 Uniform Emergency
2 Telephone System Division" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **39-21-18. Text-to-911 emergency system.**

4 (a) It is hereby declared by the general assembly that the text-to-911 emergency system is
5 a vital and necessary component of the emergency telephone system to assist citizens in the
6 following emergency situations:

7 (i) Individuals alone and choking;

8 (ii) Individuals having an allergic reaction resulting in a swollen tongue or throat;

9 (iii) Individuals as victims of home invasions;

10 (iv) Students, staff, or employees hiding from an active shooter or intruder;

11 (v) Store clerks threatened by robbers; and

12 (vi) Any other situation where texting may be preferable to dialing 911.

13 (b) The E-911 uniform emergency telephone number division shall establish a single
14 central statewide text-to-911 emergency system compatible with the present emergency telephone
15 number system in accordance with chapter 21.1 of title 39.

16 (c) The text-to-911 system shall be developed pursuant to the provisions set forth in
17 chapter 21.1 of title 39 and shall commence operation on January 1, 2020.

1 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 PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS - E-911 UNIFORM EMERGENCY
TELEPHONE SYSTEM DIVISION

- 1 This act would mandate that the E-911 uniform emergency telephone system division
- 2 develop and commence operation of a text-to-911 emergency system on January 1, 2020.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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