

State of Arkansas
89th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2013

As Engrossed: S3/28/13 S4/3/13

A Bill

SENATE BILL 974

By: Senator J. Dismang
By: Representative Wren

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE LEGISLATIVE ARKANSAS BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE ON LOCAL 911 SYSTEMS; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO ESTABLISH THE ARKANSAS BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE ON LOCAL 911 SYSTEMS; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE. DO NOT CODIFY. The Legislative Arkansas Blue Ribbon Committee on Local 911 Systems – Creation – Membership.

(a) There is created the "Legislative Arkansas Blue Ribbon Committee on Local 911 Systems".

(b)(1) The committee shall consist of the following members who are residents of this state:

(A) One (1) member who is the Director of the Association of Arkansas Counties or the director's designee;

(B) One (1) member who is the Director of the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management or the director's designee;

(C) One (1) member who is an elected county judge to be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

(D) Two (2) members who are both currently serving as state senators to be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

(E) One (1) consumer member to be appointed by the



President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

(F) One (1) member who is currently serving as a mayor to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

(G) Two (2) members who are both currently serving as state representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and

(H) One (1) consumer member to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

(2) If any vacancy occurs on the committee, the vacancy shall be filled by the same process as the original appointment.

(c)(1) The President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall appoint one (1) of the Senators who is a member of the committee as cochair and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint one (1) of the Representatives who is a member of the committee as cochair.

(2) The first and subsequent meetings shall be at the call of the cochairs at a location within the state at the call of the cochairs.

(3) The committee shall establish rules and procedures for conducting its business.

(4) A majority of the members of the committee shall constitute a quorum for transacting business of the committee.

(d)(1) The committee may create advisory task forces as it deems necessary.

(2) The members of the task forces or other persons drawn from outside the committee or task force shall serve at the pleasure of the committee.

SECTION 2. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative Arkansas Blue Ribbon Committee on Local 911 Systems – Duties.

The Legislative Arkansas Blue Ribbon Committee on Local 911 Systems shall:

(1) Perform a detailed and comprehensive study of local 911 systems across the State of Arkansas;

(2) Seek input from all appropriate sources including state, county, and municipal elected officials to determine the current state of local 911 systems across the State of Arkansas;

(3) Research the number, location, staffing, and equipment of

each Public Safety Answering Point or "PSAP" in every county in the state;

(4) Determine if there are local 911 systems with overlap and inefficiencies within the counties of this state;

(5) Identify all current funding for 911 systems;

(6) Identify all training that is required or available for 911 personnel within this state;

(7) Obtain research and information from within this state and other states related to 911 systems;

(8) Consider appropriate solutions that provide a statewide 911 network that is efficient and effective; and

(9) Make recommendations to the Governor, President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

SECTION 3. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative Arkansas Blue Ribbon Committee on Local 911 Systems – Report – Recommendations.

(a) The Legislative Arkansas Blue Ribbon Committee on Local 911 Systems shall submit a report and its recommendations on or before September 1, 2014.

(b) The report shall be submitted to:

(1) The Governor;

(2) The President Pro Tempore of the Senate; and

(3) The Speaker of the House of Representatives.

SECTION 4. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative Arkansas Blue Ribbon Committee on Local 911 Systems – Staff support.

The Arkansas Department of Emergency Management and the Bureau of Legislative Research shall provide staff support for the Legislative Arkansas Blue Ribbon Committee on Local 911 Systems.

SECTION 5. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative Arkansas Blue Ribbon Committee on Local 911 Systems – Per diem.

Legislative and nonlegislative members of the Legislative Arkansas Blue Ribbon Committee on Local 911 Systems are entitled to per diem and mileage at the same rate authorized by law for attendance at meetings of interim committees of the General Assembly and shall be paid from the funds in the Arkansas 911 Rural Enhancement Program Cash Fund at the Arkansas Department

of Emergency Management, if funds are available.

SECTION 6. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative Arkansas Blue Ribbon Committee on Local 911 Systems – Expiration.

The Legislative Arkansas Blue Ribbon Committee on Local 911 Systems expires on January 1, 2015.

SECTION 7. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that 911 emergency service is essential to protect the lives, health, and welfare of the state's residents in emergency situations; that 911 service is not available in many rural areas of the state; that this act should be implemented immediately to provide an appropriate amount of time to fully assess the local 911 systems across this state before the next Regular Session of the Arkansas Legislature and that this act is necessary to expand the benefits of the 911 emergency system to all residents of this state. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become effective on:

(1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

(2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor, the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the bill; or

(3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

/s/J. Dismang

APPROVED: 04/12/2013