The Georgia Emergency Communications Authority held a called board meeting on February 17, 2021 via conference call. An Agenda and Resolution #2021-01 are attached hereto and made official parts of these minutes as Attachments #1 and #2. Sheriff Billy Hancock, the Chairperson of the Georgia Emergency Communications Authority, called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM.

All board members were present except Peter Olson with Bartow County.

Roll Call

Old Business
Sheriff Hancock opened the floor for old business and Executive Director Nix discussed the conversation with the Georgia 911 Directors Association, the Georgia Chapter of the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials, and the Georgia Chapter of the National Emergency Number Association on February 16, 2021. Executive Director Nix then reviewed Resolution #2021-01 and the Proposed Recommendations to SB 76 with the Board.

After discussion with the Board regarding the proposed recommendations, no action was taken to remove Resolution #2021-01 from the table.

Greg Whitaker spoke about the need of creating a legislative review committee and Chairperson Billy Hancock agreed to appoint a legislative review committee comprised of Board members and non-voting advisory members.
See Attachment #2 for full resolution and appendices.

Adjourment:
There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Chairperson Billy Hancock called for a motion to adjourn. Ted Wynn made a motion and Greg Whitaker seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM.

These minutes are hereby approved and adopted this the 24th day of March 2021.

_________________________________________  _______________________________________
Billy Hancock                        William Wright
Chairperson                         Secretary

Official Attachments:
  1. Agenda
  2. Resolution #2021-01

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE GEORGIA EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY
Board of Directors of the Georgia Emergency Communications Authority

Wednesday, February 17, 2021
3:00 p.m.
Conference Call

Call Information:
gema.webex.com
Meeting Number (Access Code): 185 533 9827
Meeting Password: GECA2021!
-or-
1-855-282-6330
Meeting Number (Access Code) 185 533 9827

Meeting Agenda*

I. Call to Order/Opening Remarks—Chairperson Billy Hancock

II. Roll Call—Secretary William Wright

III. Executive Director’s Update—none

IV. Board Presentations—none

V. Old Business
   A. Legislation Discussion

VI. New Business—none

VII. Public Comment

VIII. Adjourn

*Meeting Agenda is subject to change
Resolution #2021-01

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE PASSAGE OF SB 76

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Georgia Emergency Communications Authority (“Board”) recognizes the benefits that Next Generation 911 (NG911) will bring to the State of Georgia including increased call location accuracy, decreased 911 call misroutes, multimedia to flow from callers to emergency responders through the 911 center, and increased 911 accessibility for various communities including the deaf and hard of hearing and domestic abuse and human trafficking victims; and,

WHEREAS, the Board believes that a funding model change is needed to ensure that GECA and the local 911 centers have the necessary resources to implement a statewide NG911 system; and,

WHEREAS, the Board believes that SB 76 provides the necessary funding and structural changes to ensure an effective and efficient implementation of a statewide NG911 system;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED THAT:

Section 1: The Board of Directors of the Georgia Emergency Communications Authority supports the passage of SB 76 with the recommended changes as discussed by the Board.

Section 2: The Proposed Recommendations to SB 76 and SB 76 are attached to this resolution as Appendix A and Appendix B, respectively.

Section 2: This resolution shall be in effect immediately upon adoption.

Sheriff Billy Hancock
Chairperson
Board of Directors of the Georgia Emergency Communications Authority

I hereby certify that this Resolution was adopted by the Board of Directors of the Georgia Emergency Communications Authority on February 5, 2021.

William Wright
Secretary
Board of Directors of the Georgia Emergency Communications Authority
Appendix A

Proposed Recommendations to SB 76

Section 1-2

- Add “maintenance” at the end of line 77 to read “Develop a grant program utilizing monies in the Georgia NG911 Fund, if funds are available for grant purposes, to assist primary public safety answering points in hardware and software upgrades and maintenance;” (Line 77)
- Remove Paragraphs 12 and 13 regarding the lab environment and cybersecurity center (Lines 78-84)

Section 1-4

- Reduce 16.5 percent of the fees to 12.5 percent of the fees to create an even split of the $.50 adjustment between the state and local 911 centers. (Line 118)
- Remove POAB provision from this bill and address in legislation next year after the actuarial study has been performed and there is a better understanding as to what the cost would be to add communications officers to POAB to keep it solvent. (Lines 121-123)
- Adjust language in paragraph 2 to read “the state revenue commissioner shall administer the provisions of this Code section and shall prepare, by February 1 of each year, an accounting of the funds received and distributed pursuant to this subsection.” (Lines 124-128)

Section 1-5

- Adjust the numbers to be “paragraphs (9) through (11) of subsection (c)...” since we removed paragraphs 12 and 13 (Line 148)
- Add an additional subparagraph that states “The Board may contract with a certified public accountant or firm for an annual financial audit of the fund. The certified public accountant or firm shall have no financial interest in any vendor with whom the Authority is under contract. The certified public accountant or firm shall present an audit report not later than four months after the end of the fiscal year. The certified public accountant or firm shall evaluate the internal auditing controls in effect during the audit period. The cost of this annual financial audit shall be an operating expense of the authority.” (subparagraph to go after Line 150)

Section 2-9

- Strike “within the first six months of their employment” to give more flexibility in the delivery of training. (Lines 470-471)

Section 3-1

- Add “minimum” in front of “amount” to read “By January 1, 2022, the council, in coordination with the Georgia Emergency Communications Authority, shall
establish a minimum amount of continuing education units to be annually completed by communications officers.” (Line 501)
Senate Bill 76
By: Senators Albers of the 56th, Robertson of the 29th, Dugan of the 30th, Kirkpatrick of the 32nd, Kennedy of the 18th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

To amend Article 12 of Chapter 3 of Title 38 and Part 4 of Article 2 of Chapter 5 of Title 46 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to emergency communications authority and emergency telephone number 9-1-1 system, respectively, so as to provide for Next Generation 911 systems and services; to provide for definitions; to revise the duties and responsibilities of the Georgia Emergency Communications Authority to include Next Generation 911 systems and services; to revise the role of the executive director of the authority; to create the Georgia NG911 Fund; to impose and dedicate the proceeds of certain telephone subscriber fees to the Georgia NG911 Fund; to provide for annual reporting; to provide for compliance with constitutional requirements; to provide for an automatic repeal; to revise distribution and the amounts of certain telephone subscriber fees; to revise billing requirements for such subscriber fees; to revise certain funding requirements; to repeal certain local government requirements; to revise uses of the Emergency Telephone System Fund; to repeal certain guidelines pertaining to additional charges involving contracts between two or more counties; to revise training and instruction requirements; to amend Chapter 8 of Title 35 and Chapter 60 of Title 36 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to employment and training of peace officers and general provisions applicable to counties and municipal corporations, respectively, so as to revise training requirements for communication officers; to provide for related matters; to condition effectiveness upon

S. B. 76
- 1 -
approval by two-thirds' majority vote in both the Senate and the House of Representatives; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

PART I
SECTION 1-1.

Article 12 of Chapter 3 of Title 38 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to emergency communications authority, is amended by adding new paragraphs to Code Section 38-3-181, relating to definitions, as follows:

"(2.1) 'Emergency medical dispatch' means the management of requests for emergency medical assistance by utilizing a system of:

(A) A tiered response or priority dispatching of emergency medical resources based on the level of medical assistance appropriate for the victim; and

(B) Prearrival first aid or other medical instructions given by trained telecommunicators responsible for receiving 9-1-1 calls and dispatching public safety agencies."

"(4.1) 'GIS' means computerized geographical information that can be used to assist in locating a person who calls for emergency assistance, including, but not limited to, mapping elements such as public safety answering point boundaries, provisioning boundaries, site structure address points, road centerlines, emergency service boundaries, and other additional data."

"(5.1) 'Next Generation Core Services' means services required to deliver secure, interoperable, multimedia-capable services to public safety answering points, seamlessly and without the need for proprietary interfaces."
(6.2) 'Next Generation 9-1-1 Network' or 'NG911 network' means managed internet protocol-based networks, functional elements, and data bases that expand E-911 features and enable the public to transmit digital information to public safety answering points utilizing commonly accepted standards followed by the emergency communications industry for Emergency Service IP Networks (ESInet), GIS, cybersecurity, and other system components.

(6.3) 'Next Generation 9-1-1 System' or 'NG911 system' means an internet protocol-enabled emergency communications system, enabling the public to reach an appropriate public safety answering point by sending the digits 9-1-1 via dialing, text, or any other technological means.

(6.4) 'Next Generation 9-1-1 system provider' or 'NG911 system provider' means an entity that provides a next generation or IP-enabled 9-1-1 system to a PSAP."

"(8.1) 'Primary public safety answering point' means the first point of reception of a 9-1-1 call by a public safety answering point."

"(9.1) 'State Emergency Services IP Network' or 'ESInet' means an NG911 network contracted by the Georgia Emergency Communications Authority to one or more NG911 system providers for the purpose of securely receiving 9-1-1 calls, transferring 9-1-1 calls and all associated data, providing centralized network management and security monitoring, and enabling GIS call routing."

SECTION 1-2.

Said article is further amended by revising paragraphs (7) and (8) of, and adding new paragraphs to, subsection (c) of Code Section 38-3-182, relating to establishment of Georgia Emergency Communications Authority, purpose, duties and responsibilities, board of directors, perpetual existence, power and authority, operation, and regulation, as follows:

"(7) Collect data and statistics regarding the performance of public safety answering points; and"
(8) Identify any necessary changes or enhancements to develop and deploy NG911 statewide;
(9) Administer the deployment of a 9-1-1 service for emerging communications technologies, including, but not limited to, the State ESInet and Next Generation Core Services;
(10) Use funds available to the board in the Georgia NG911 Fund under Code Section 38-3-188.1 to pay its obligations incurred for state-wide 911 projects;
(11) Develop a grant program utilizing monies in the Georgia NG911 Fund, if funds are available for grant purposes, to assist primary public safety answering points in hardware and software upgrades;
(12) Establish a lab environment to validate that the NG911 system is configured properly and meets the necessary requirements and to ensure seamless interoperability between the State ESInet, Next Generation Core Services, and the call handling equipment providers in this state and surrounding states;
(13) Establish an emergency communications cybersecurity center to allow for further innovation of cybersecurity solutions to protect the State ESInet, Next Generation Core Services, and public safety answering points;
(14) Establish cooperative purchasing agreements or other contracts for the procurement of goods and services including, but not limited to, call handling equipment, computer aided dispatch, and emergency medical dispatch programs;
(15) Coordinate, adopt, and communicate all necessary technical and operational standards and requirements to ensure an effective state-wide interconnected and interoperable State ESInet;
(16) Coordinate, adopt, and communicate all necessary technical and operational standards and requirements for GIS data related to NG911; and
(17) Collect, manage, and analyze call taking data that are delivered to the State ESInet for use by the authority in performing call analytics and call routing.”
SECTION 1-3.
Said article is further amended by revising Code Section 38-3-183, relating to appointment of executive director, role, and additional staffing, as follows:

"38-3-183.
The director of the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency shall appoint an executive director, subject to approval by the board, who shall be the administrative head of the authority; and shall establish the salary of the executive director. The executive director shall serve at the pleasure of such director. The executive director shall be considered the state 9-1-1 administrator and the state-wide interoperability coordinator for the purposes of relevant state and federal law and program requirements. The executive director, with the concurrence and approval of such director, shall hire officers, agents, and employees; prescribe their duties, responsibilities, and qualifications; set their salaries; and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the authority. Such officers, agents, and employees shall serve at the pleasure of the executive director."

SECTION 1-4.
Said article is further amended by revising Code Section 38-3-188, relating to retention of funds by Department of Revenue and payment to local governments, as follows:

"38-3-188.
(a) The Department of Revenue shall retain from the charges remitted to it pursuant to subsection (a) of Code Section 38-3-185 and pursuant to Code Section 46-5-134.2 an amount equal to 0.5 percent of the total amount of such charges and remit such amount to the authority.
(b)(1) Under the authority granted and subject to the conditions imposed by Article III, Section IX, Paragraph VI(r) of the Constitution of Georgia, 16.5 percent of the fees collected pursuant to paragraph (1) of subsection (a) of the Code Section 46-5-134, beginning on January 1, 2022, and ending on December 31, 2032 shall be dedicated to
the Georgia NG911 Fund; provided, however, that up to 20 percent of such percentage may be designated by an act of the General Assembly to the Peace Officers' Annuity and Benefit Fund of Georgia.

(2) The state revenue commissioner shall administer the provisions of this Code section and shall prepare, by February 1 of each year, an accounting of the funds received and expended pursuant to this subsection. The report shall be made available to the House Committee on Public Safety and the Senate Public Safety Committee, and to members of the public upon request.

(3) This subsection shall stand repealed and reserved on December 31, 2032.

(c) Except for the amounts retained by the authority, the Georgia NG911 Fund, Department of Revenue, and service suppliers pursuant to Code Sections 38-3-186 and 46-5-134 and this Code section, the remainder of the charges remitted by service suppliers shall be paid by the Department of Revenue to each local government on a pro rata basis based on the remitted amounts attributable to each such local government reported by service suppliers in the reports required by subsection (b) of Code Section 38-3-185. Such payments shall be made by the Department of Revenue to such local governments not later than 30 days following the date charges must be remitted by service suppliers to the Department of Revenue pursuant to subsection (a) of Code Section 38-3-185. Under no circumstances shall such payments be, or be deemed to be, revenues of the state and such payments shall not be subject to or available for appropriation by the state for any purpose."

SECTION 1-5.

Said article is further amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

"38-3-188.1.

(a) There is created a fund to be known as the Georgia NG911 Fund and shall be administered by the board.
(b) The fund shall be funded with fees as provided for in subsection (b) of Code Section 38-3-188. The purpose of the fund shall be to facilitate the duties and responsibilities of the authority as provided for in paragraphs (9) through (13) of subsection (c) of Code Section 38-3-182. Beginning on January 1, 2022, and every year thereafter, the board shall report revenues and expenses of the board.

(c) This Code section shall be repealed in its entirety on July 1, 2031.”

PART II

SECTION 2-1.

Part 4 of Article 2 of Chapter 5 of Title 46 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to emergency telephone number 9-1-1 system, is amended by adding a new paragraph to Code Section 46-5-122, relating to definitions, as follows:

“(10.1) ‘Next Generation 9-1-1’ or ‘NG911’ is a secure, nationwide, interoperable, standards-based, all internet protocol emergency communications infrastructure, enabling end-to-end transmission of all types of data, including, but not limited to, voice and multimedia communications from the public to a public safety answering point.”

SECTION 2-2.

Said part is further amended by revising paragraph (1) of subsection (a) of Code Section 46-5-124, relating to guidelines for implementing state-wide emergency 9-1-1 system and training and equipment standards, as follows:

“(1) Steps of action necessary for public agencies to effect the necessary coordination, regulation, and development preliminary to a 9-1-1 system that shall incorporate the requirements of each public service safety agency in each local government of Georgia;”
SECTION 2-3.
Said part is further amended by revising Code Section 46-5-126, relating to cooperation by commission and telephone industry, as follows:

"46-5-126. The authority shall coordinate its activities with those of the Public Service Commission, which shall encourage the Georgia telephone industry to activate facility modification plans for a timely 9-1-1 support the timely implementation of NG911."

SECTION 2-4.
Said part is further amended by revising subsection (b) of Code Section 46-5-127, relating to approval of 9-1-1 systems by agency and written confirmation by authority required for 9-1-1 systems established on or after January 1, 2019, as follows:

"(b) On or after January 1, 2019, no emergency 9-1-1 system shall be established, and no existing system shall be expanded to provide wireless enhanced 9-1-1 service or NG911 service, without written confirmation by the authority that the local plan conforms to the guidelines and procedures provided for in Code Section 46-5-124. The authority shall not deny establishment of a new system or an expansion to provide wireless enhanced 9-1-1 service if the local plan conforms to the guidelines and procedures provided for in Code Section 46-5-124."

SECTION 2-5.
Said part is further amended by revising subsections (a) and (c) of Code Section 46-5-133, relating to authority of local government to adopt resolution to impose monthly 9-1-1 charge, as follows:

"(a) Subject to the provisions of subsection (b) of this Code section, the governing authority of any local government which operates or which contracts for the operation of an emergency 9-1-1 system is authorized to adopt a resolution to impose a monthly 9-1-1
charge upon each telephone service subscribed to by telephone subscribers whose exchange
access lines are in the areas served or which would be served by the 9-1-1 service. Subject
to the provisions of subsection (b) of this Code section and of subparagraphs (a)(2)(A) and
(a)(2)(B) of Code Section 46-5-134, the governing authority of any local government
which operates or contracts for the operation of an emergency 9-1-1 system which is
capable of providing or provides enhanced 9-1-1 service to persons or entities with a
wireless telecommunications connection, excluding a military base, is authorized to adopt
a resolution to impose a monthly wireless enhanced 9-1-1 charge upon each wireless
telecommunications connection, other than a connection for prepaid wireless service,
subscribed to by telephone subscribers whose place of primary use is within the geographic
area that is served by the local government or that would be served by the local government
for the purpose of such an emergency 9-1-1 system. Such resolution, or any amendment
to such resolution, shall fix a date on which such resolution and the imposition and
collection of the 9-1-1 charge or wireless enhanced 9-1-1 charge, as provided in the
resolution, shall become effective; provided, however, that such effective date shall be at
least 120 days following the date of the adoption of such resolution or any amendment to
such resolution by the local government. The 9-1-1 charge must be uniform, may not vary
according to the type of telephone service used, and may be billed on a monthly or
quarterly basis. The wireless enhanced 9-1-1 charge must be uniform, not vary according
to the type of wireless telecommunications connection used, and may shall be billed on a
monthly or quarterly basis."

"(c) On and after January 1, 1999, no monthly 9-1-1 charge provided for in this Code
section shall be imposed or continue to be imposed unless each public safety answering
point funded in whole or in part from such charges is in compliance with Code Section
36-60-19, relating to required TDD training on communicating effectively with people who
are deaf, hard of hearing, or have speech disabilities for communications officers."

S. B. 76
- 9 -
SECTION 2-6.

Said part is further amended by revising subsections (a), (d), and (f) of Code Section 46-5-134, relating to billing of subscribers, liability of subscriber for service charge, taxes on service, establishment of Emergency Telephone System Fund, cost recovery fee, records, and use of funds, as follows:

"(a)(1)(A)(i) Unless exempt, the telephone subscriber of any telephone service shall be billed for the monthly 9-1-1 charge, if any, imposed with respect to such telephone service by the service supplier. Such 9-1-1 charge shall be $1.50 per month per telephone service provided to the telephone subscriber except as reduced pursuant to paragraph (4) of subsection (d) of this Code section; provided, however, that beginning on January 1, 2022, the 9-1-1 charge shall be $2.00 per month per telephone service provided to the telephone subscriber.

(ii)(2) In computing the amount due under this subsection, the number of 9-1-1 charges a telephone subscriber shall be assessed shall not exceed the number of simultaneous outbound calls that can be made from voice channels the service supplier has activated and enabled. For telephone service that provides to multiple locations shared simultaneous outbound voice channel capacity configured to and capable of accessing a 9-1-1 system in different states, the monthly 9-1-1 charge shall be assessed only for the portion of such shared voice channel capacity in this state as identified by the service supplier's books and records. In determining the portion of shared capacity in this state, a service supplier may rely on, among other factors, a customer's certification of its allocation of capacity in this state, which may be based on each end user location, the total number of end users, and the number of end users at each end user location.

(B)(3) All telephone services billed to federal, state, or local governments shall be exempt from the 9-1-1 charge. Each service supplier shall, on behalf of the local government, collect the 9-1-1 charge from those telephone subscribers to whom it provides telephone service in the area served by the emergency 9-1-1 system. As part of
its normal billing process, the service supplier shall collect the 9-1-1 charge for each
month a telephone service is in service, and it shall list the 9-1-1 charge as a separate
 entry on each bill. Nothing in this Code section shall be construed to require a service
 supplier to list the 9-1-1 charge as a surcharge or separate entry on each bill. Service
 suppliers that do not list the 9-1-1 charge as a separate entry on each bill shall remit the
 9-1-1 charge for each telephone subscriber that pays the bill; provided, however, that this
 information shall be maintained in a form auditors can access. If a service supplier
 receives a partial payment for a bill from a telephone subscriber, the service supplier shall
 apply the payment against the amount the telephone subscriber owes the service supplier
 first.

(C)(4) This paragraph subsection shall not apply to wireless service or prepaid wireless
 service or the telephone subscribers or service suppliers of such services.

(2)(5)(A) If the governing body of a local government operates or contracts for the
 operation of a public safety answering point that is capable of providing or provides
 automatic number identification of a wireless telecommunications connection and the
 location of the base station or cell site which receives a 9-1-1 call from a wireless
 telecommunications connection, the subscriber of a wireless telecommunications
 connection whose place of primary use is within the geographic area that is served by
 the local government or that would be served by the local government for the purpose
 of such a public safety answering point may be billed for the monthly wireless
 enhanced 9-1-1 charge, if any, imposed with respect to that connection by the wireless
 service supplier. Such wireless enhanced 9-1-1 charge shall be $1.50 per month per
 wireless telecommunications connection provided to the telephone subscriber except
 as otherwise provided in paragraph (4) of subsection (d) of this Code section; provided,
 however, that beginning on January 1, 2022, the 9-1-1 charge shall be $2.00 per month
 per wireless telecommunications connection provided to the telephone subscriber.
(B) If the governing body of a local government operates or contracts for the operation of an emergency 9-1-1 system which is capable of providing or provides automatic number identification and automatic location identification of a wireless telecommunications connection, the subscriber of a wireless telecommunications connection whose place of primary use is within the geographic area that is served by the local government or that would be served by the local government for the purpose of such an emergency 9-1-1 system may be billed for the monthly wireless enhanced 9-1-1 charge, if any, imposed with respect to that connection by the wireless service supplier. Such wireless enhanced 9-1-1 charge may not exceed the amount of the monthly 9-1-1 charge imposed upon other telephone subscribers pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection and shall be imposed on a monthly basis for each wireless telecommunications connection provided to the telephone subscriber.

(C) All wireless telecommunications connections billed to federal, state, or local governments shall be exempt from the wireless enhanced 9-1-1 charge. Each wireless service supplier shall, on behalf of the local government, collect the wireless enhanced 9-1-1 charge from those telephone subscribers whose place of primary use is within the geographic area that is served by the local government or that would be served by the local government for the purpose of such an emergency 9-1-1 system. As part of its normal billing process, the wireless service supplier shall collect the wireless enhanced 9-1-1 charge for each month a wireless telecommunications connection is in service, and it may list the wireless enhanced 9-1-1 charge as a separate entry on each bill. Nothing in this Code section shall be construed to require a wireless service supplier to list the 9-1-1 charge as a separate entry on each bill. Wireless service suppliers that do not list the 9-1-1 charge as a separate entry on each bill shall remit the 9-1-1 charge for each telephone subscriber that pays the bill; provided, however, that this information shall be maintained in a form auditors can access. If a wireless service supplier receives partial payment for a bill from a telephone subscriber, the wireless
service supplier shall apply the payment against the amount the telephone subscriber owes the wireless service supplier first.

(D) Notwithstanding the foregoing, the application of any 9-1-1 service charge with respect to a mobile telecommunications service, as defined in 4 U.S.C. Section 124(7), shall be governed by the provisions of Code Section 48-8-6.

(E) This paragraph shall not apply to prepaid wireless service or the telephone subscribers or service suppliers of such service."

"(d)(1) Each service supplier that collects 9-1-1 charges or wireless enhanced 9-1-1 charges on behalf of the local government is entitled to retain as an administrative fee an amount equal to 1 percent of the gross 9-1-1 or wireless enhanced 9-1-1 charge receipts to be remitted to the local government; provided, however, that such amount shall not exceed 1¢ for every dollar so remitted.

(2) The 9-1-1 charges and the wireless enhanced 9-1-1 charges collected by the service supplier and transmitted to the authority for distribution to local governments pursuant to Code Section 38-3-185 shall, upon being received by a local government, be deposited and accounted for in a separate restricted revenue fund known as the Emergency Telephone System Fund maintained by the local government. The local government may invest the money in the fund in the same manner that other moneys of the local government may be invested and any income earned from such investment shall be deposited into the Emergency Telephone System Fund.

(3) On or before July 1, 2005, any funds that may have been deposited in a separate restricted wireless reserve account required by this Code section prior to such date shall be transferred to the Emergency Telephone System Fund required by paragraph (2) of this subsection.

(4) The governing body of a local government shall be required to reduce such monthly 9-1-1 charge or wireless enhanced 9-1-1 charge at any time the projected revenues from 9-1-1 charges or wireless enhanced 9-1-1 charges will cause the unexpended revenues in
the Emergency Telephone System Fund at the end of the fiscal year to exceed by one and one-half times the unexpended revenues in such fund at the end of the immediately preceding fiscal year or at any time the unexpended revenues in such fund at the end of the fiscal year exceed by one and one-half times the unexpended revenues in such fund at the end of the immediately preceding fiscal year. Such reduction in the 9-1-1 charge or wireless enhanced 9-1-1 charge shall be in an amount which will avert the accumulation of revenues in such fund at the end of the fiscal year which will exceed by one and one-half times the amount of revenues in the fund at the end of the immediately preceding fiscal year."

(f)(1) In addition to cost recovery as provided in subsection (e) of this Code section, money from the Emergency Telephone System Fund shall be used only to pay for:

(A) The lease, purchase, or maintenance of emergency telephone equipment, including necessary computer hardware, software, and data base provisioning; addressing; and nonrecurring costs of establishing a 9-1-1 system;

(B) The rates associated with the service supplier's 9-1-1 service and other service supplier's recurring charges;

(C) The actual cost, according to generally accepted accounting principles, of salaries and employee benefits incurred by the local government for employees hired by the local government solely for the operation and maintenance of the emergency 9-1-1 system and employees who work as directors as that term is defined in Code Section 46-5-138.2, whether such employee benefits are purchased directly from a third-party insurance carrier, funded by the local government's self-funding risk program, or funded by the local government's participation in a group self-insurance fund. As used in this paragraph, the term 'employee benefits' means health benefits, disability benefits, death benefits, accidental death and dismemberment benefits, pension benefits, retirement benefits, workers' compensation, and such other benefits as the local
government may provide. Said term shall also include any post-employment benefits
the local government may provide;

(D) The actual cost, according to generally accepted accounting principles, of training
employees hired by the local government solely for the operation and maintenance of
the emergency 9-1-1 system and employees who work as directors as that term is
defined in Code Section 46-5-138.2;

(E) Office supplies of the public safety answering points used directly in providing
emergency 9-1-1 system services;

(F) The cost of leasing or purchasing a building used as a public safety answering
point. Moneys from the fund shall not be used for the construction or lease of an
emergency 9-1-1 system building until the local government has completed its street
addressing plan;

(G) The lease, purchase, or maintenance of computer hardware and software used at
a public safety answering point, including computer-assisted dispatch systems and
automatic vehicle location systems;

(H) Supplies directly related to providing emergency 9-1-1 system services, including
the cost of printing emergency 9-1-1 system public education materials; and

(I) The lease, purchase, or maintenance of logging recorders used at a public safety
answering point to record telephone and radio traffic;

(J) The actual cost, according to generally accepted accounting principles, of insurance
purchased by the local government to insure against the risks and liability in the
operation and maintenance of the emergency 9-1-1 system on behalf of the local
government or on behalf of employees hired by the local government solely for the
operation and maintenance of the emergency 9-1-1 system and employees who work
as directors as that term is defined in Code Section 46-5-138.2, whether such insurance
is purchased directly from a third-party insurance carrier, funded by the local
government's self-funding risk program, or funded by the local government's
participation in a group self-insurance fund. As used in this division, the term 'cost of
insurance' shall include, but shall not be limited to, any insurance premiums, unit fees,
and broker fees paid for insurance obtained by the local government; and

(K) The lease, purchase, or maintenance of a mobile communications vehicle and
equipment, if the primary purpose and designation of such vehicle is to function as a
backup 9-1-1 system center.

(2)(A) In addition to cost recovery as provided in subsection (e) of this Code section,
money from the Emergency Telephone System Fund may be used to pay for
those purposes set forth in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph, if provided that:

(i) The local government's 9-1-1 system provides enhanced 9-1-1 service; and

(ii) The revenues from the 9-1-1 charges or wireless enhanced 9-1-1 charges in the
local government's Emergency Telephone System Fund at the end of any fiscal year
shall be projected to exceed the cost of providing enhanced 9-1-1 services as
authorized in subparagraphs (A) through (I) of paragraph (1) of this subsection and
the cost of providing enhanced 9-1-1 services as authorized in subparagraphs (A)
through (I) of paragraph (1) of this subsection includes a reserve amount equal to at
least 10 percent of the previous year's expenditures; and

(iii) Funds for such purposes are distributed pursuant to an intergovernmental
agreement between the local governments whose citizens are served by the
emergency 9-1-1 system proportionately by population as determined by the most
recent decennial census published by the United States Bureau of the Census at the
time such agreement is entered into.

(B) Pursuant to subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, the Emergency Telephone System
Fund may be used to pay for:

(i) The actual cost, according to generally accepted accounting principles, of
insurance purchased by the local government to insure against the risks and liability
in the operation and maintenance of the emergency 9-1-1 system on behalf of the
local government or on behalf of employees hired by the local government solely for
the operation and maintenance of the emergency 9-1-1 system and employees who
work as directors as that term is defined in Code Section 46-5-138.2, whether such
insurance is purchased directly from a third-party insurance carrier, funded by the
local government's self-funding risk program, or funded by the local government's
participation in a group self-insurance fund. As used in this division, the term 'cost
of insurance' shall include, but shall not be limited to, any insurance premiums, unit
fees, and broker fees paid for insurance obtained by the local government;
(ii) The lease, purchase, or maintenance of a mobile communications vehicle and
equipment, if the primary purpose and designation of such vehicle is to function as
a backup 9-1-1 system center;
(iii) The allocation of indirect costs associated with supporting the 9-1-1 system
center and operations as identified and outlined in an indirect cost allocation plan
approved by the local governing authority that is consistent with the costs allocated
within the local government to both governmental and business-type activities;
(iv)(i) The lease, purchase, or maintenance of mobile public safety voice and data
equipment, geo-targeted text messaging alert systems, or towers necessary to carry
out the function of 9-1-1 system operations; and
(v)(ii) The lease, purchase, or maintenance of public safety voice and data
communications systems located in the 9-1-1 system facility that further the
legislative intent of providing the highest level of emergency response service on a
local, regional, and state-wide basis, including equipment and associated hardware
and software that support the use of public safety wireless voice and data
communication systems.”
SECTION 2-7.

Said part is further amended by adding a new paragraph to subsection (a) and revising paragraph (1) of subsection (b) and paragraph (4) of subsection (j) of Code Section 46-5-134.2, relating to prepaid wireless 9-1-1 charge, definitions, imposition of fee by localities, collection and remission of charges, and distribution of funds, as follows:

"(1) 'Authority' means the Georgia Emergency Communications Authority established pursuant to Code Section 38-3-182."

"(b)(1) Counties and municipalities that operate a 9-1-1 public safety answering point, including counties and municipalities that operate multijurisdictional or regional 9-1-1 systems or have created a joint authority pursuant to Code Section 46-5-138, are authorized to impose by ordinance or resolution a prepaid wireless 9-1-1 charge in the amount of $1.50 per retail transaction; provided, however, that beginning on January 1, 2022, the prepaid wireless 9-1-1 charge shall be $2.00 per retail transaction. Imposition of the charge authorized by this Code section by a county or municipality shall be contingent upon compliance with the requirements of paragraph (1) of subsection (j) of this Code section."

"(4) Funds distributed to a county or municipality pursuant to this Code section shall be deposited and accounted for in a separate restricted revenue fund known as the Emergency Telephone System Fund, maintained by the local government pursuant to paragraph (2) of subsection (d) of Code Section 46-5-134. The commissioner shall deposit all funds received pursuant to paragraph (2) of subsection (b) of this Code section into the general fund of the state treasury in compliance with Article 4 of Chapter 12 of Title 45, the 'Budget Act.' It is the intention of the General Assembly, subject to the appropriation process, that an amount equal to the amount deposited into the general fund of the state treasury as provided in this paragraph be appropriated each year to a program of state grants to counties and municipalities administered by the department authority for the purpose of supporting the operations of public safety answering points in the..."
improvement of 9-1-1 service delivery. The department authority shall promulgate rules and regulations for the administration of the 9-1-1 grant program; and”

SECTION 2-8.

Said part is further amended by repealing Code Section 46-5-138.1, relating to guidelines pertaining to additional charges involving contracts between two or more counties, in its entirety and designating such Code section as reserved.

SECTION 2-9.

Said part is further amended by revising subsection (b) of Code Section 46-5-138.2, relating to "Director" defined and training and instruction, as follows:

"(b) In addition to any training required under federal or state law, any persons becoming a director may on or after January 1, 2022, shall enroll in, attend, and complete satisfactorily a course of training and instruction on the management of public safety answering points and the establishment and operation of 9-1-1 systems within the first six months of their employment. Such course of instruction for directors shall be developed and made available by the center subject to the availability and receipt of funding.”

PART III

SECTION 3-1.

Chapter 8 of Title 35 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to employment and training of peace officers, is amended by revising Code Section 35-8-23, relating to basic training course for communications officers, certification requirements, duties of council, and rules and regulations, as follows:
"35-8-23.

(a) As used in this Code section, the term 'communications officer' means and includes any person employed or contracted by the state or a local governmental agency to receive, process, or transmit public safety information and dispatch law enforcement officers, firefighters, medical personnel, or emergency management personnel.

(b) Any person employed on or after July 1, 1995, as a communications officer shall satisfactorily complete a basic training course approved by the council. Persons who are employed on July 1, 1994, shall register with the council and may be certified by voluntarily complying with the certification process. Any person who fails to comply with the registration or certification process of the council shall not perform any duties of a communications officer and may have his or her certificate sanctioned or revoked.

(c) The council shall conduct administrative compliance reviews with respect to the requirements of this Code section. The council, in coordination with the Georgia Emergency Communications Authority, shall be authorized to promulgate rules and regulations to facilitate the administration and coordination of standards, certification, and compliance reviews consistent with the provisions of this Code section.

(d) On and after July 1, 1998, the basic training course for communications officers shall include training in the use of telecommunications devices for the deaf (TDD's) communicating effectively with people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have speech disabilities, and no person shall on or after that date be certified by the council under this Code section unless such person has satisfactorily completed such training.

(e) By January 1, 2022, the council, in coordination with the Georgia Emergency Communications Authority, shall establish an amount of continuing education units to be annually completed by communications officers. On or after January 1, 2023, no person shall be certified by the council under this Code section unless such person has satisfactorily completed such training."
SECTION 3-2.

Chapter 60 of Title 36 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general provisions regarding provisions applicable to counties and municipal corporations, is amended by revising Code Section 36-60-19, relating to dispatch centers, required training for communications officers, exceptions, and penalty for noncompliance, as follows:

36-60-19. (a) On and after January 1, 1999, every dispatch center operated by any county or municipality to receive, process, or transmit public safety information and dispatch law enforcement officers, firefighters, medical personnel, or emergency management personnel shall comply with the requirements of this Code section. Each such dispatch center shall have on duty at all times at least one communications officer who is certified as having been trained in the use of telecommunications devices for the deaf (TDD's) communicating effectively with people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have speech disabilities, as provided for in subsection (d) of Code Section 35-8-23. However, a dispatch center which is staffed by ten or fewer communications officers shall be considered in compliance with this Code section; provided, however, that on and after January 1, 1999, no dispatch center shall be permitted to employ any additional or replacement communications officers who are not certified as having been trained in the use of telecommunications devices for the deaf (TDD's) communicating effectively with people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have speech disabilities as provided for in subsection (d) of Code Section 35-8-23.

(b) On and after January 1, 1999, no monthly 9-1-1 charge provided for in Code Section 46-5-133 may be imposed for the support of any dispatch center unless such dispatch center is in compliance with the requirements of this Code section."
PART IV

SECTION 4-1.

In accordance with the requirements of Article III, Section IX, Paragraph VI(r) of the Constitution of Georgia, this Act shall not become law unless it receives the requisite two-thirds' majority vote in both the Senate and the House of Representatives and the amount of the funds dedicated by this Act do not equal or exceed 1 percent of the previous fiscal year's state revenues subject to appropriations.

SECTION 4-2.

Except as provided for in Section 4-1 of this Act, this Act shall become effective on July 1, 2021.

SECTION 4-3.

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.