

By: Representatives Porter, Hines, Johnson,  
Mickens

To: Public Utilities

HOUSE BILL NO. 360

1 AN ACT TO CREATE A NEW SECTION TO REQUIRE EMERGENCY  
2 COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICTS TO IMPLEMENT A SYSTEM TO ALLOW  
3 TEXT-TO-911 SERVICES; TO AMEND SECTION 19-5-303, MISSISSIPPI CODE  
4 OF 1972, TO DEFINE THE TERM "TEXT-TO-911"; TO AMEND SECTION  
5 19-5-311, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO CONFORM TO THE PRECEDING  
6 SECTIONS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

8 **SECTION 1.** By January 1, 2026, all emergency communications  
9 districts or the board of supervisors of any county that serves as  
10 the commissioners of such district shall implement a system to  
11 allow text-to-911 services.

12 **SECTION 2.** Section 19-5-303, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
13 amended as follows:

14 19-5-303. For purposes of Sections 19-5-301 through  
15 19-5-317, the following words and terms shall have the following  
16 meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

17 (a) "Exchange access facilities" shall mean all lines  
18 provided by the service supplier for the provision of local  
19 exchange service as defined in existing general subscriber  
20 services tariffs.



21           (b) "Tariff rate" shall mean the rate or rates billed  
22 by a service supplier as stated in the service supplier's tariffs  
23 and approved by the Public Service Commission, which represent the  
24 service supplier's recurring charges for exchange access  
25 facilities, exclusive of all taxes, fees, licenses or similar  
26 charges whatsoever.

27           (c) "District" shall mean any communications district  
28 created pursuant to Section 19-5-301 et seq., or by local and  
29 private act of the State of Mississippi.

30           (d) "Service supplier" shall mean any person providing  
31 exchange telephone service to any service user throughout the  
32 county.

33           (e) "Service user" shall mean any person, not otherwise  
34 exempt from taxation, who is provided exchange telephone service  
35 in the county or state.

36           (f) "E911" shall mean Enhanced Universal Emergency  
37 Number Service or Enhanced 911 Service, which is a telephone  
38 exchange communications service whereby a Public Safety Answering  
39 Point (PSAP) designated by the county or local communications  
40 district may receive telephone calls dialed to the abbreviated  
41 telephone number 911. E911 Service includes lines and equipment  
42 necessary for the answering, transferring and dispatching of  
43 public emergency telephone calls originated by persons within the  
44 serving area who dial 911. Enhanced 911 Service includes the



45 displaying of the name, address and other pertinent caller  
46 information as may be supplied by the service supplier.

47 (g) "Basic 911" shall mean a telephone service  
48 terminated in designated Public Safety Answering Points accessible  
49 by the public through telephone calls dialed to the abbreviated  
50 telephone number 911. Basic 911 is a voice service and does not  
51 display address or telephone number information.

52 (h) "Shared tenant services (STS)" shall mean any  
53 telephone service operation supplied by a party other than a  
54 regulated local exchange telephone service supplier for which a  
55 charge is levied. Such services shall include, but not be limited  
56 to, apartment building systems, hospital systems, office building  
57 systems and other systems where dial tone is derived from  
58 connection of tariffed telephone trunks or lines connected to a  
59 private branch exchange telephone system.

60 (i) "Private branch exchange (PBX)" shall mean any  
61 telephone service operation supplied by a party other than a  
62 regulated local exchange telephone service supplier for which a  
63 charge is not levied. Such services are those where tariffed  
64 telephone trunks or lines are terminated into a central switch  
65 which is used to supply dial tone to telephones operating within  
66 that system.

67 (j) "Off-premise extension" shall mean any telephone  
68 connected to a private branch exchange or a shared tenant service  
69 which is in a different building or location from the main



70 switching equipment and, therefore, has a different physical  
71 address.

72 (k) "Centrex" or "ESSX" shall mean any variety of  
73 services offered in connection with any tariffed telephone service  
74 in which switching services and other dialing features are  
75 provided by the regulated local exchange telephone service  
76 supplier.

77 (l) "Commercial mobile radio service" or "CMRS" shall  
78 mean commercial mobile radio service under Sections 3(27) and  
79 332(d) of the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996, 47 USCS  
80 Section 151 et seq., and the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of  
81 1993, Public Law 103-66. The term includes the term "wireless"  
82 and service provided by any wireless real-time, two-way voice  
83 communication device, including radio-telephone communications  
84 used in cellular telephone service, personal communication  
85 service, or the functional or competitive equivalent of a  
86 radio-telephone communications line used in cellular telephone  
87 service, a personal communication service, or a network radio  
88 access line. The term does not include service whose customers do  
89 not have ready access to 911, to a communication channel suitable  
90 only for data transmission, to a wireless roaming service or other  
91 nonlocal radio access line service, or to a private  
92 telecommunications system.

93 (m) "Telecommunicator" shall mean any person engaged in  
94 or employed as a telecommunications operator by any public safety,



95 fire or emergency medical agency whose primary responsibility is  
96 the receipt or processing of calls for emergency services provided  
97 by public safety, fire or emergency medical agencies or the  
98 dispatching of emergency services provided by public safety, fire  
99 or emergency medical agencies and who receives or disseminates  
100 information relative to emergency assistance by telephone or  
101 radio.

102 (n) "Public safety answering point (PSAP)" shall mean  
103 any designated point of contact between the public and the  
104 emergency services such as a 911 answering point or, in the  
105 absence of 911 emergency telephone service, any other designated  
106 point of contact where emergency telephone calls are routinely  
107 answered and dispatched or transferred to another agency.

108 (o) "Local exchange telephone service" shall mean all  
109 lines provided by a service supplier as defined in existing  
110 general subscriber tariffs.

111 (p) "911 emergency communication" means any FCC  
112 mandated 911 communication, message, signal or transmission made  
113 to a public safety answering point.

114 (q) "Voice over Internet Protocol service" means any  
115 technology that permits a voice conversation using a voice  
116 connection to a computer, whether through a microphone, a  
117 telephone or other device, which sends a digital signal over the  
118 Internet through a broadband connection to be converted back to  
119 the human voice at a distant terminal and that delivers or is



120 required by law to deliver a call to a public safety answering  
121 point. Voice over Internet Protocol service shall also include  
122 interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol service, which is  
123 service that enables real-time, two-way voice communications,  
124 requires a broadband connection from the user's location, requires  
125 Internet protocol compatible customer premises equipment, and  
126 allows users to receive calls that originate on the public service  
127 telephone network and to terminate calls to the public switched  
128 telephone network.

129 (r) "Voice over Internet Protocol service supplier"  
130 means a person or entity who provides Voice over Internet Protocol  
131 service to subscribers for a fee.

132 (s) "Text-to-911" means the ability to send a text  
133 message to reach 911 emergency call takers from a mobile phone or  
134 device.

135 **SECTION 3.** Section 19-5-311, Mississippi Code of 1972,  
136 is amended as follows:

137 19-5-311. The emergency telephone system shall, when so  
138 authorized by a vote of a majority of the qualified electors of  
139 the county voting on the proposal in an election held for that  
140 purpose, be designed to have the capability of utilizing at least  
141 one (1) of the following three (3) methods in response to  
142 emergency calls:

143 (a) "District dispatch method," which is a telephone  
144 service to a centralized dispatch center providing for the



145 dispatch of an appropriate emergency service unit upon receipt of  
146 a telephone request for such services and a decision as to the  
147 proper action to be taken, including an E911 system.

148 (b) "Relay method," which is a telephone service  
149 whereby pertinent information is noted by the recipient of a  
150 telephone request for emergency services and is relayed to  
151 appropriate public safety agencies or other providers of emergency  
152 services for dispatch of an emergency service unit.

153 (c) "Transfer method," which is a telephone service  
154 which receives telephone requests for emergency services and  
155 directly transfers such requests to an appropriate public safety  
156 agency or other provider of emergency services.

157 In addition to the required implementation of the text-to-911  
158 services as set out in Section 1 of this act, the board of  
159 commissioners shall select the method which it determines to be  
160 the most feasible for the county.

161 **SECTION 4.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
162 and after its passage.

