

By: Senator(s) DeLano

To: Technology

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
FOR  
SENATE BILL NO. 2835

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS  
2 AUTHORITY ACT; TO DEFINE TERMS; TO ESTABLISH THE MISSISSIPPI  
3 COMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY WITHIN THE MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY  
4 MANAGEMENT AGENCY; TO CREATE AN ADVISORY BOARD TO ADVISE THE  
5 AUTHORITY; TO OUTLINE THE AUTHORITY'S POWERS AND DUTIES; TO  
6 ESTABLISH CONFIDENTIALITY; TO PROVIDE THAT THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
7 SHALL PROVIDE LEGAL SERVICES TO THE AUTHORITY; TO CREATE AN  
8 EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE CHARGE; TO PROVIDE FOR COLLECTION  
9 OF, HOLDING, AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE SERVICE CHARGE; TO REQUIRE  
10 CERTAIN REGISTRATIONS FROM SERVICE PROVIDERS; TO PROVIDE THAT  
11 WIRELESS EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SERVICE SHALL NOT BE USED FOR  
12 PERSONAL USE; TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE TO PAY ALL  
13 REMITTED EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE CHARGES OVER TO THE  
14 AUTHORITY; TO PROVIDE FOR A DEPOSIT INTO THE EMERGENCY  
15 COMMUNICATIONS PUBLIC SAFETY TRUST FUND; TO REQUIRE EACH EMERGENCY  
16 COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT TO SUBMIT A FINANCIAL AND PROGRAM AUDIT TO  
17 THE AUTHORITY ADVISORY BOARD ANNUALLY; TO REQUIRE ALL EMERGENCY  
18 COMMUNICATION DISTRICTS TO ADOPT AN NG911 PLAN NO LATER THAN  
19 DECEMBER 31, 2030; TO BRING FORWARD SECTION 19-5-301, MISSISSIPPI  
20 CODE OF 1972, FOR PURPOSES OF POSSIBLE AMENDMENT; TO AMEND SECTION  
21 19-5-305, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO ALLOW COUNTIES TO FORM ECDS  
22 IN COORDINATION WITH EACH OTHER; TO BRING FORWARD SECTION  
23 19-5-307, FOR PURPOSES OF POSSIBLE AMENDMENT; TO AMEND SECTION  
24 19-5-315, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REMOVE THE PROVISION THAT  
25 STIPULATES THAT CHAPTER 5 SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO AMEND, REPEAL OR  
26 SUPERSEDE ANY LOCAL AND PRIVATE ACT; TO BRING FORWARD SECTION  
27 19-5-317, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, FOR PURPOSES OF POSSIBLE  
28 AMENDMENT; TO AMEND SECTION 33-15-14, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
29 REQUIRE THE AGENCY TO SERVE AS THE STATEWIDE COORDINATOR FOR  
30 EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS; TO BRING FORWARD SECTION 33-15-7,  
31 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, FOR PURPOSES OF POSSIBLE AMENDMENT; TO  
32 BRING FORWARD SECTION 19-5-343, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, FOR  
33 PURPOSES OF POSSIBLE AMENDMENT; TO REPEAL SECTIONS 19-5-303,  
34 19-5-311, 19-5-313, 19-5-331, 19-5-333, 19-5-335, 19-5-337,



35 19-5-339, 19-5-341, 19-5-343, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, RELATED TO  
36 THE EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SERVICE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

38 **SECTION 1.** This act shall be known and may be cited as the  
39 "Mississippi Emergency Communications Authority Act."

40 **SECTION 2.** As used in this act, the following terms shall  
41 have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates  
42 otherwise:

43 (a) "Authority" means the Mississippi Emergency  
44 Communications Authority. The authority is a subdivision of the  
45 Mississippi Emergency Management Agency for all purposes and  
46 reports directly to the MEMA Executive Director.

47 (b) "Advisory board" or "board" means the thirteen (13)  
48 member Mississippi Emergency Communication Authority (MECA)  
49 Advisory Board as appointed in Section 3 of this act.

50 (c) The director of the authority shall be the  
51 Emergency Management Communications Coordinator of the Mississippi  
52 Emergency Management Agency (MEMA).

53 (d) "Commercial mobile radio service provider" or "CMRS  
54 provider" means a person, corporation, or entity licensed by the  
55 Federal Communications Commission to offer CMRS in the State of  
56 Mississippi, and includes, but is not limited to, broadband  
57 personal communications service, cellular radio telephone service,  
58 geographic area Specialized Mobile Radio (SMR) services in the 800  
59 MHz and 900 MHz bands that offer real-time, two-way voice service  
60 that is interconnected with the public switched network, incumbent



61 wide area SMR licensees, or any other cellular or wireless device  
62 that has the capability of connecting to a public safety answering  
63 point.

64 (e) "Next Generation 9-1-1" or "NG9-1-1" or "NG911"  
65 means a secure, internet protocol (IP)-based, open-standards  
66 system comprised of hardware, software, data and operational  
67 policies and procedures that:

68 (i) Provides standardized interfaces from  
69 emergency call and message services to support emergency  
70 communications;

71 (ii) Processes all types of emergency calls,  
72 including voice, text, data and multimedia information;

73 (iii) Acquires and integrates additional emergency  
74 call data useful to call routing and handling;

75 (iv) Delivers the emergency calls, messages, and  
76 data to the appropriate Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) and  
77 other appropriate emergency entities based on the location of the  
78 caller;

79 (v) Supports data, video and other communications  
80 needs for coordinated incident response and management; and

81 (vi) Interoperates with services and networks used  
82 by first responders (and other 911 systems) to facilitate  
83 emergency response. NG9-1-1 is designed to provide access to  
84 emergency services from all connected communications sources and



85 provide multimedia data capabilities for Public Safety Answering  
86 Points (PSAPs) and other emergency service organizations.

87 (f) "Emergency Communications Public Safety Trust Fund"  
88 means the funds remitted to the Department of Revenue and  
89 deposited into the Emergency Communications Service Charge Fund  
90 that through contract or memorandum of understanding with the  
91 Mississippi Emergency Communication Authority are transmitted to  
92 ECDs,

93 (g) "Emergency Communications Service Charge Fund"  
94 means the Emergency Communications Service Charge Fund required to  
95 be established and maintained pursuant to Section 3 of this act.

96 (h) "Emergency communications service charge" means the  
97 emergency communications service charge levied and maintained  
98 pursuant to this section and collected pursuant to Section 3 of  
99 this act.

100 (i) "Distribution formula" means the formula specified  
101 in Section 3 of this act by which monies generated from the  
102 emergency communications service charge are distributed to the  
103 local emergency communications districts and to the authority.

104 (j) "ECD" means an emergency communications district  
105 created pursuant to Section 19-5-301 et seq., or by a local and  
106 private act of the State of Mississippi.

107 (k) "Exchange access facility" means an "exchange  
108 access facility" as defined by Section 19-5-303.



(l) "Place of primary use" means the street address representative of where the consumer's use of communications services primarily occurs, which must be either the residential street address or the primary business street address of the consumer. When location of primary use is impractical to determine, the physical address for billing may be used.

(m) "Service supplier" means a "service supplier" as defined by Section 19-5-303.

(n) "Consumer" means a person who purchases retail communications service or prepaid wireless telecommunications service in a retail transaction.

(o) "Prepaid wireless emergency communications services charge" means the charge that is required to be collected by a seller from a consumer in the amount established under Section 3 of this act.

(p) "Prepaid wireless communications service" means a wireless communications service that allows a caller to access PSAP through a placed call or wireless data connection, which service must be paid for in advance and is sold in predetermined units or dollars of which the number declines with use in a known amount.

(q) "Service provider" means an entity that provides a service that allows the two-way transmission, conveyance or routing of voice, data, audio, video or any information of signals, including cable and internet protocol services, to a



point or between or among points by or through any electronic, radio, satellite, cable, optical, microwave or other medium or method in existence on or after the effective date of this definition, regardless of protocol used for the transmission or conveyance, only if that service is capable of contacting a PSAP by entering or dialing the digits 911 and is subject to applicable federal or state requirements to provide the 911 dialing capability. The term does not include wireless and internet-protocol-enabled services that are exempt from Federal Communications Commission regulations for 911 communications service, 911 service and next generation 911 service.

(r) "Retail transaction" means the purchase of prepaid wireless telecommunications service from a seller for any purpose other than resale. A retail transaction that is effected in person by a consumer at a business location of the seller shall be treated as occurring in this state if that business location is in this state, and any other retail transaction shall be treated as occurring in this state if the retail transaction is treated as occurring in this state for purposes of Section 27-65-19(1)(d)(v)3.c.

(s) "Seller" means a person who sells prepaid wireless telecommunications service to another person.

(t) "Emergency Services IP Network" or "ESInet" means a managed IP network that is used for emergency services communications, and which can be shared by all public safety



159 agencies. It provides the IP transport infrastructure upon which  
160 independent application platforms and core services can be  
161 deployed, including, but not restricted to, those necessary for  
162 providing NG9-1-1 services. ESInets may be constructed from a mix  
163 of dedicated and shared facilities. ESInets may be interconnected  
164 at local, regional, state, federal, national and international  
165 levels to form an IP-based internetwork (network of networks).  
166 ESInet is the designation for the network, but not for the  
167 services on the network.

168 (u) "Geographic information system" or "GIS" is a  
169 system for capturing, storing, displaying, analyzing and managing  
170 data and associated attributes which are spatially referenced.

171 (v) "Internet protocol" or "IP" means the method by  
172 which data is sent from one computer to another on the internet or  
173 other networks.

174 (w) "Public safety answering point" or "PSAP" is an  
175 entity responsible for receiving 9-1-1 calls and processing those  
176 calls according to a specific operational policy.

177 (x) "State NG911 Plan" refers to a comprehensive  
178 strategy developed by the State to transition from 911 to Next  
179 Generation 911 technology.

180 (y) "NG911 CMRS Grant Fund" established to receive all  
181 revenues accrued from the existing CMRS providers' accounts  
182 payable fund (as stated in Section 19-5-333(2)(c)(i)) that was  
183 levied on CMRS connections since the inception of Sections



19-5-335 and 19-5-343. The NG911 Implementation Grant Fund shall be used only for capital improvements, equipment, software and other expenses directly attributed to the implementation of approved ECD NG911 plans and related purposes as determined and provided by the authority.

(z) "ECD NG911 Implementation Grant Fund" is established to deposit/transfer all revenues derived from the existing CMRS providers' accounts payable fund that was levied on CMRS connections.

(aa) "ECD Operations Fund" is established for the operational expenses of the authority in providing PSAP services, capital improvements and normal operations.

(bb) "State NG911 Fund" is specifically used to implement/deploy, maintain and upgrade as necessary a statewide NG911 Services Network, activities and/or infrastructure and other duties of the Mississippi Emergency Communications Authority as set forth in this act and consistent with the State NG911 Plan.

(cc) "Location" is a single physical address.

**SECTION 3.** (1) There is established the Mississippi Emergency Communications Authority as an instrumentality of the state. The authority and service providers shall work in cooperation with the state and local government to plan for and implement a framework of both technical and operational aspects of implementing and operating an interoperable and interconnected Next Generation 911 (NG911) public safety network. The authority





209 may contract and be contracted with and defend and bring actions,  
210 including, but not limited to, a private right of action to  
211 enforce this act. The authority shall be an entity within the  
212 Mississippi Emergency Management Agency and attached to said  
213 agency for all operational purposes. The MEMA Executive director  
214 is the ultimate authority and administrative head of the  
215 Mississippi Emergency Communications Authority. The director  
216 shall be responsible for ensuring the authority is compliant with  
217 applicable state and federal programs and law. The director shall  
218 serve at the will and pleasure of the Executive Director of  
219 Mississippi Emergency Management Agency. All employees shall  
220 serve at the will and pleasure of the executive director.

221 (2) (a) Management of the authority shall be vested in a  
222 director with technical guidance and recommendations from the  
223 advisory board which shall consist of the following:

224 (i) The Commissioner of Public Safety, or his or  
225 her designee;

226 (ii) One (1) member appointed by the Governor  
227 selected from two (2) nominees submitted by the GIS Coordinating  
228 Council;

229 (iii) One (1) member appointed by the Governor  
230 selected from two (2) nominees submitted by the Mississippi 911  
231 Coordinators Association;

232 (iv) One (1) member appointed by the Governor  
233 selected from two (2) nominees submitted by the Mississippi



234 Chapter of the Association of Public Safety Communications  
235 Officials;

236 (v) One (1) member appointed by the Governor  
237 selected from two (2) nominees submitted by the Mississippi  
238 Chapter of the National Emergency Number Association;

239 (vi) One (1) member appointed by the Lieutenant  
240 Governor who shall be an elected member of a county board of  
241 supervisors selected from two (2) nominees submitted by the  
242 Mississippi Association of Supervisors;

243 (vii) One (1) member appointed by the Lieutenant  
244 Governor who may be a county manager, county administrator or  
245 finance officer from a county that operates or contracts for the  
246 operation of a public safety answering point selected from two (2)  
247 nominees submitted by the Mississippi Association of Supervisors;

248 (viii) One (1) member appointed by the Governor  
249 selected from two (2) nominees submitted by Mississippi Emergency  
250 Medical Services;

251 (ix) One (1) member appointed by the Lieutenant  
252 Governor who shall be an elected member of a municipal governing  
253 authority, city manager, city administrator, or finance officer  
254 from a municipality that operates or contracts for the operation  
255 of a public safety answering point selected from two (2) nominees  
256 submitted by the Mississippi Municipal League;

257 (x) One (1) member appointed by the Governor who  
258 shall be from the telecommunications industry;



(xi) One (1) member appointed by the Lieutenant Governor who is a sheriff responsible for managing a public safety answering point selected from two (2) nominees submitted by the Mississippi Sheriffs' Association;

(xii) One (1) police chief appointed by the Governor who is serving a local government selected from two (2) nominees submitted by the Mississippi Association of Chiefs of Police; and

(xiii) One (1) fire chief appointed by the Lieutenant Governor who is serving a local government selected from two (2) nominees submitted by the Mississippi Fire Chiefs Association.

(b) The initial term for appointments made pursuant to subparagraphs (ii), (iii), (iv), (v), (vi) and (vii) of paragraph (a) of this subsection shall be from July 1, 2025, until June 30, 2028. These initial appointments shall be made by July 1, 2025. The initial term for appointments made pursuant to subparagraphs (viii), (ix), (x), (xi), (xii) and (xiii) of paragraph (a) of this subsection shall be from July 1, 2025, until June 30, 2027. All subsequent terms shall be for three (3) years. Any vacancies that occur prior to the end of a term shall be filled by appointment in the same manner as the original appointment and shall be for the remainder of the unexpired term. Upon expiration of his or her term of office, a board member shall continue to serve until his or her successor has been duly appointed and qualified. Members



may be appointed to successive terms. In the event of a vacancy, the vacancy shall be filled for the balance of the unexpired term in the same manner as the original appointment. Any vacancy occurring on the board, whether for an expired or unexpired term, shall be filled by appointment as soon as practicable after the vacancy occurs. Appointments made at times when the Senate is not in session shall be effective immediately ad interim and shall serve until the Senate acts on the appointment as provided herein. Any appointments made while the Senate is not in session shall be submitted to the Senate not later than the third legislative day following the reconvening of the Legislature. In the event the Senate fails or refuses to act on the appointment, the person whose name was submitted shall continue to serve until action is taken on the appointment by the Senate.

(c) The board may appoint additional persons to serve in an advisory role to the board. MEMA legal shall have a representative and MEMA accounting shall have a representative serving on the board in advisory positions. Such advisers shall be nonvoting and shall not be counted in ascertaining if a quorum is present.

(d) Members of the advisory board shall receive no compensation for their services but may be authorized by the authority to receive reimbursement from funds of the authority as provided by state law for travel associated with their service in



an amount not to exceed the reimbursement authorized for state officers and employees in Section 25-3-41.

(e) Seven (7) members of the advisory board shall constitute a quorum, and the affirmative votes of a majority of a quorum shall be required for any action to be taken by the board.

(f) The director of the authority shall convene the initial meeting of the board of the authority no later than August 1, 2025, at which time the board shall elect one (1) of its members as chairperson. In addition, the board shall elect from its membership a vice chairperson and a secretary/treasurer.

(g) The advisory board shall promulgate bylaws and may adopt other procedures for governing its affairs and for discharging its duties as may be permitted or required by law or applicable rules and regulations, provided that the director has ultimate authority for approving, denying or modifying such bylaws and procedures.

(3) The authority shall administer, receive and audit emergency communications service charges for the benefit of the State NG911 Plan and ECDs throughout the state, as specified in this article, and on such terms and conditions as may be determined to be in the best interest of the operations of ECDs.

(4) The authority shall act as a statewide authority and resource for the development, modification, and implementation of a State NG911 Plan. On or before March 1, 2026, the authority shall develop, establish and publish a defined scope and technical



standards and operational requirements for a State NG911 Plan.  
The authority shall have an exemption from state procurement  
timelines and requirements for a period of three (3) years in  
order to get plans and functions established.

(5) The authority shall act as a statewide authority and  
resource for the development, modification, and approval of each  
ECD's NG911 implementation plan. On or before September 30, 2026,  
the authority shall publish minimum standards, specifications and  
requirements for a ECD NG911 plan.

(6) In addition to the purposes specified in this  
subsection, the authority shall have the duties and  
responsibilities to:

(a) Developing and adopt an annual budget for approval  
and submission to the Legislative Budget Office by MEMA for  
implementation, management, upgrades, deployments, and operations  
consistent with the State NG911 Plan;

(b) Apply for, receive, and use federal grants or state  
grants or both;

(c) Study, evaluate and establish technology standards  
for the regional and statewide provision of a public safety  
communications network and NG911 systems; review and revise  
technology standards based on orders and ruling by the Federal  
Communications Commission (FCC);

(d) Identify and recommend any changes necessary to  
accomplish more effective, efficient and sustainable emergency



358 communication service across this state, including consolidation  
359 and interoperability of PSAPs and or 911 systems, recommending a  
360 long-term plan for standardization of operational processes and  
361 training, recommending any legislation necessary to implement the  
362 long-term strategic State NG911 Plan, and reporting its  
363 recommendations to the Legislative Services Office of the Senate  
364 and the House of Representatives;

365 (e) Identify and recommend any changes necessary in the  
366 assessment and collection of emergency communication service  
367 charges; provide a report to the Legislative Services Office of  
368 the Senate and the House of Representatives;

369 (f) Develop, offer or make recommendations to the  
370 Mississippi Board of Emergency Telecommunications Standards and  
371 Training (Section 19-5-351) and other state agencies, as to  
372 standardized training that should be provided to  
373 telecommunicators, trainers, supervisors and directors of Public  
374 Safety Answering Points;

375 (g) Recommend minimum standards for the operation of  
376 public safety answering points and the authority shall develop and  
377 implement a quality assurance program internally and shall monitor  
378 local and regional PSAP compliance with technical and operational  
379 standards, requirements and practices;

380 (h) Collect data and statistics regarding the  
381 performance and operation of public safety answering points and



coordinate with ECDs to provide technical assistance when requested;

(i) Identify any necessary changes or enhancements to develop and deploy NG911 statewide and to establish policies and procedures to develop and implement a plan to provide NG911 services;

(j) Investigate and incorporate Geographical Information Systems standards and mapping and other resources into the State NG911 Plan and formulate recommended strategies for the efficient and effective delivery of NG911 services;

(k) The Mississippi Emergency Communications Authority shall have the authority to act upon any adverse findings noted in ECD audits or financial statements and to order such action as may be necessary to remedy the adverse findings which may include but, not be limited to, withholding transfers from the Emergency Communication Public Safety Trust Fund;

(l) Develop a CMRS Implementation Grant Program for providing the State NG911 Fund and ECDs competitive grants for NG911 implementation consistent with the State NG911 Plan and an approved ECD NG911 plan. The authority shall develop a scoring system for ECD applications based on completeness of application, number of businesses and residences served, geographic area served by an ECD and achievement of consolidation of PSAPs. The scoring should promote a reduction of statewide PSAPs. Funds available in the NG911 CMRS Grant Fund shall be used for grant program and





amounts awarded to ECDs shall be transferred to the ECDs NG911 Implementation Fund for the purposes stated in Section 9 of this act.

(7) The authority shall have the power and authority to:

(a) Require each ECD to submit a plan to implement a NG911 program consistent with Section 3 of this act. The ECD may obtain technical assistance from the authority in formulating its plan. Each NG911 plan shall be designed to meet the individual circumstances of each community and public agency participating in the ECD. The plan shall consider efficiencies to be achieved from regionalization and consolidation. Once the board reviews each ECD's plan for completeness and compliance with the State NG911 Plan, the board shall vote to make a recommendation to the director. The director may either approve, deny, or remand the plan back to the board with notes for further work. Upon final approval by the director, the board shall certify the ECD NG911 plan for period of time as state in the State NG911 Plan;

(b) Identify and define all ECDs created in Section 19-5-315 throughout the state by geospatial layer. The authority shall adopt a schedule of all zip codes plus four (4) designations for ECDs in the state as required by the federal Universal Sourcing Act. ECDs that have within their jurisdiction any zip code designations that do not adhere to ECD boundary lines shall assist the authority in determining the appropriate allocation of Emergency Communications Service Charge for each ECD for



scheduling purposes and used in the distribution formula. The authority shall maintain a published map of ECD districts;

(c) Make and execute contracts, lease agreements, and all other instruments necessary or convenient to exercise the powers of the authority or to further the public purpose for which the authority is created, including, but not limited to, professional services;

(d) Acquire by purchase, lease, or otherwise and to hold, lease, and dispose of real or personal property of every kind and character, or any interest therein, in furtherance of the purpose of the authority;

(e) Apply for and to accept any gifts or grants, loan guarantees, loans of funds, property, or financial or other aid in any form from the federal government or any agency or instrumentality thereof, from the state government or any agency or instrumentality thereof, or from any other source for any or all purposes specified in this article and to comply, subject to the provisions of this article, with the terms and conditions thereof;

(f) Deposit or otherwise invest funds held by it in any state depository or in any investment that is authorized for the investment of proceeds of state general obligation bonds and to use for its corporate purposes or redeposit or reinvest interest earned on such funds;



456 (g) Establish and maintain the Emergency Communications  
457 Service Public Safety Trust Fund, the NG911 CMRS Grant Fund, and  
458 the State NG911 Fund;

459 (h) Receive, manage and control the Emergency  
460 Communications Service Charge Fund remitted to the Department of  
461 Revenue and transferred into a special fund established in the  
462 State Treasury designated as the "Emergency Communications Public  
463 Safety Trust Fund" on behalf of the authority and pursuant to  
464 Section 6 of this act. The revenues which are deposited into the  
465 Emergency Communications Public Safety Trust Fund shall not be  
466 monies or property of the state and shall not be subject to  
467 appropriation by the Legislature. Monies in the fund at the end  
468 of the fiscal year shall not lapse into the General Fund. The  
469 Emergency Communications Public Safety Trust Fund shall be  
470 deposited into an insured, interest-bearing account and interest  
471 earned shall be credited to the special fund;

472 (i) Retain during each calendar month an amount not to  
473 exceed seven percent (7%) of the total money allocated to the  
474 Emergency Communications Public Safety Trust Fund which shall be  
475 deposited into a special fund established in the State Treasury to  
476 be designated as the "State NG911 Fund." The Emergency  
477 Communications Public Safety Trust Fund, and any other funds that  
478 may be made available, is to be used for the purpose of  
479 administration and operations of the authority and costs directly  
480 associated with the implementation and/or maintenance of the State



NG911 Plan. Monies left in the fund at the end of the fiscal year shall not lapse into the General Fund, and interest earned on any amounts deposited into the fund shall be credited to the special fund;

(j) Establish and maintain a distribution formula for the Emergency Communications Public Safety Trust Fund by which the authority will make disbursements to ECDs. The distribution formula shall be developed and maintained by the advisory board to use all information remitted pursuant to Section 6 of this act and any other creditable information available to ensure accurate and fair distributions of the Emergency Communications Public Safety Trust Fund to the benefit of each ECD. The advisory board shall establish a stated process for amending, appealing and otherwise managing the distribution formula. The director must approve the distribution formula prior to formal implementation;

(k) Distribute funds in the Emergency Communications Public Safety Trust Fund to each ECD in accordance with the distribution formula established in this act;

(l) Maintain a registration database of all service providers and impose an administrative fine on any provider that fails to comply with the registration requirements in this act;

(m) May retain an independent, third-party accountant who shall audit service providers at the discretion of the authority to verify the accuracy of each service providers' emergency communications service charge collection. The



information obtained by the audits shall be used solely for the purpose of verifying that service providers are accurately collecting and remitting the emergency communications service charges and may be used for any legal action initiated by the authority against service providers. The authority is prohibited from retaining a third-party accountant on a contingency fee or other success-based arrangement. The authority shall be subject to the following:

(i) The authority shall develop a schedule for auditing service providers according to criteria adopted by the board. Such schedule shall provide for an audit of a service provider not more than once every three (3) years. Any such audit shall cover a representative sample of the service provider's customer base in the state; and

(ii) Any claim by the authority seeking to adjust the amount of any collection, remittance, or charge reported by the service provider or imposing any penalty shall be limited to the period of three years prior to the date of the initial notice to the service provider of the audit;

(n) Levy interest charges at the legal rate of interest established in Section 75-17-1 on any amount due and outstanding from any service provider who fails to remit emergency communications service charges in accordance with Section 6 of this act;



(o) Promulgate such rules and regulations as may be necessary to effect the provisions of this act;

(p) In order to provide additional funding for implementing, deploying, operating, and maintaining NG911 programs, the authority may receive federal, state, county or municipal funds, as well as funds from private sources, and may expend such funds for the purposes of Section 19-5-301 et seq.

(8) All monies received by the authority pursuant to this act shall be deemed to be trust funds to be held and applied solely as provided in this act.

(9) This act, being for the welfare of the state and its inhabitants, shall be liberally construed to effect the purposes thereof.

**SECTION 4.** All information submitted to the authority or to the independent, third-party auditor as required by this act shall be retained by the authority and such auditor in confidence and shall be subject to review only by the authority. Further, notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no information so submitted shall be subject to subpoena or otherwise released to any person other than to the submitting service provider, the authority, and the aforesaid independent, third-party auditor without the express permission of the administrator and the submitting service provider. General information collected by the aforesaid independent, third-party auditor shall only be released or published in aggregate amounts which do not identify or allow



identification of numbers of subscribers of revenues attributable to an individual service provider.

**SECTION 5.** The Attorney General shall provide legal services for the authority.

**SECTION 6.** (1) Beginning January 1, 2026, the state hereby levies an emergency communications service charge in an amount not to exceed Two Dollars (\$2.00) per residential telephone subscriber line per month, Two Dollars (\$2.00) per Voice over Internet Protocol subscriber account per month, Two Dollars (\$2.00) per commercial telephone subscriber line per month for exchange telephone service, Two Dollars (\$2.00) per CMRS connection per month, and Two Dollars (\$2.00) for a prepaid wireless telecommunications service purchased in a retail transaction.

(2) (a) No such emergency communications service charge shall be imposed upon more than two hundred (200) exchange access facilities or Voice over Internet Protocol lines per location. Trunks or service lines used to supply service to CMRS providers shall not have an emergency communications service charge levied against them.

(b) In computing the amount due under this subsection, the number of emergency communications service charges a consumer 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 service that provides to multiple locations shared simultaneous outbound voice channel



capacity configured to and capable of accessing a PSAP in different states, the monthly emergency communications service charge shall be assessed only for the portion of such shared voice channel capacity in Mississippi as identified by the service provider's books and records. In determining the portion of the shared capacity in the state, a service provider may rely on, among other factors, a customer's certification of its allocation of capacity in Mississippi, 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.

(3) For purposes of applying the emergency communication service charge (a) when a service provider delivers service to the same person, business, or organization the voice channel capacity to make more than one simultaneous outbound call from an exchange access facility, then each such separate simultaneous outbound call voice channel capacity, regardless of technology, shall constitute a separate service; and (b) when the same person, business, or organization has several wireless telephones, each CMRS connection shall constitute a separate service. A broadband connection used for telephone service shall not constitute a separate voice channel capacity subscription for purposes of the emergency communication service charge.

(4) Each service provider shall act as a collection agent for the emergency communications service charge and shall, as part of the provider's normal monthly billing process, collect the





605 emergency communications service charges levied upon providers and  
606 customers pursuant to subsection (1) of this section and shall,  
607 not later than thirty (30) days after the end of the calendar  
608 month in which such emergency communications service charges are  
609 collected, remit to the Department of Revenue the emergency  
610 communications service charges so collected. A return, in such  
611 form as the Department of Revenue and the service supplier agree  
612 upon, shall be filed with the Department of Revenue, to include  
613 aggregate emergency communications service charges collected and  
614 reported to the Department of Revenue on a county or ECD basis as  
615 determined by the authority using by a zip code plus four (4)  
616 designation as required by the federal Uniform Sourcing Act and a  
617 remittance of the amount of service charge collected payable to  
618 the Emergency Communications Services Charge Fund.

619 (5) Each service provider shall be entitled to deduct and  
620 retain from the emergency communications service charges collected  
621 by such provider during each calendar month an amount not to  
622 exceed one-half percent (0.5%) of the gross aggregate amount of  
623 such collections as reimbursement for the actual costs incurred by  
624 such provider in collecting, handling and processing such  
625 emergency communications service charges.

626 (6) Each service provider shall list the emergency  
627 communications service charge as a separate entry on each bill,  
628 which includes an emergency communications service charge.



629           (7) The service supplier shall maintain records of the  
630 amount of emergency communications service charge collected for a  
631 period of at least two (2) years from date of collection. The  
632 authority shall receive an annual audit of the service supplier's  
633 books and records with respect to the collection and remittance of  
634 the emergency communications service charge.

635           (8) The emergency communications service charge is the  
636 liability of the consumer and not the service provider. The  
637 service provider shall have no obligation to take any legal action  
638 to enforce the collection of any emergency communications service  
639 charge; however, the service provider shall annually provide the  
640 authority, upon request by the authority, with a list of the  
641 amount uncollected, together with the names and addresses of those  
642 service users who carry a balance that can be determined by the  
643 service provider to be nonpayment of such emergency communications  
644 service charge. Good-faith compliance by the service provider  
645 with this provision shall constitute a complete defense to any  
646 legal action or claim which may result from the service provider's  
647 determination of nonpayment and/or the identification of service  
648 users in connection therewith.

649           (9) Each service provider shall register with the authority  
650 and the Department of Revenue and shall provide the following  
651 information upon registration:

- 652                   (a) The company name of the provider;  
653                   (b) The marketing name of the provider;



654 (c) The publicly traded name of the provider;  
655 (d) The physical address of the company headquarters  
656 and of the main office located in the State of Mississippi; and  
657 (e) The names and addresses of the providers' board of  
658 directors/owners.

659 Each service provider shall notify the authority of any  
660 change in the information prescribed in paragraphs (a) through (e)  
661 of this subsection (7). The authority may impose an  
662 administrative fine in an amount not to exceed Ten Thousand  
663 Dollars (\$10,000.00) on any provider which fails to comply with  
664 the provisions of this subsection.

665 (10) (a) For prepaid wireless communications service, the  
666 emergency communications service charge shall be collected by the  
667 seller from the consumer with respect to each retail transaction  
668 occurring in this state. The amount of the emergency  
669 communications service charge shall be either separately stated on  
670 an invoice, receipt or other similar document that is provided to  
671 the consumer by the seller, or otherwise disclosed to the  
672 consumer.

673 (b) The prepaid wireless emergency service charge is  
674 the liability of the consumer and not of the seller or of any  
675 service provider, except that the seller shall be liable to remit  
676 all prepaid wireless emergency service charges that the seller  
677 collects from consumers as provided in subsection (1) of this  
678 section, including all such charges that the seller is deemed to



679 have collected where the amount of the charge has not been  
680 separately stated on an invoice, receipt or other similar document  
681 provided to the consumer by the seller.

682 (c) Prepaid wireless emergency communications service  
683 charges collected by sellers shall be remitted to the Department  
684 of Revenue at the times and in the manner provided by Title 27,  
685 Chapter 65, Mississippi Code of 1972, with respect to sales and  
686 use taxes. The Department of Revenue shall establish registration  
687 and payment procedures that substantially coincide with the  
688 registration and payment procedures that apply to Title 27,  
689 Chapter 65, Mississippi Code of 1972.

690 (d) The audit and appeal procedures applicable to Title  
691 27, Chapter 65, Mississippi Code of 1972, shall apply to prepaid  
692 wireless emergency communications service charges.

693 (e) The Department of Revenue shall establish  
694 procedures by which a seller of prepaid wireless  
695 telecommunications service may document that a sale is not a  
696 retail transaction, which procedures shall substantially coincide  
697 with the procedures for documenting sale for resale transactions  
698 for sales and use tax purposes under Title 27, Chapter 65,  
699 Mississippi Code of 1972.

700 (f) A seller shall be permitted to deduct and retain  
701 two percent (2%) of prepaid wireless emergency service charges  
702 that are collected by the seller from consumers.



703           (11) The amount of the emergency communications service  
704 charge that is collected by a service providers or seller from a  
705 consumer, shall not be considered revenue for any purpose and,  
706 therefore, shall not be included in the base for measuring any  
707 tax, fee, surcharge or other charge that is imposed by this state,  
708 any political subdivision of this state or any intergovernmental  
709 agency.

710           (12) No service provider or seller of prepaid wireless  
711 communications service shall be liable for damages to any person  
712 resulting from or incurred in connection with accessing or  
713 attempting to access emergency services.

714           (13) No service provider shall be liable for damages to any  
715 person or entity resulting from or incurred in connection with the  
716 service provider's provision of assistance to any investigative or  
717 law enforcement officer of the United States, this or any other  
718 state, or any political subdivision of this or any other state, in  
719 connection with any investigation or other law enforcement  
720 activity by such law enforcement officer that the provider  
721 believes in good faith to be lawful.

722           (14) Partial payments made by a customer are applied first  
723 to the amount the customer owes the service provider or seller or  
724 seller of prepaid wireless telecommunication service.

725           (15) The emergency communications service charge provided in  
726 Section 6 of this act and the service charge provided in Section  
727 19-5-357 to fund the training of public safety telecommunicators



shall be the only charges assessed to service providers and customers of service providers relating to emergency communications services.

(16) To avoid an overlap in the assessment of the old and new charges for service providers obligated to pay the emergency communication service charge safety charge, a transition to the payment of the emergency communications service charge shall occur.

(a) The assessment of charges before the effective date of this section shall continue through December 31, 2025, and be remitted in the same manner to the same entity as previously prescribed before the effective date of this section.

(b) Any unpaid assessments for the time period up to and including December 31, 2025, shall remain due and payable under the terms and processes that are or were in place at the time.

(c) Beginning on January 1, 2026, a service provider is subject to the public safety charges assessed as described in this section.

(d) After January 1, 2026, a service supplier shall remit to Department of Revenue all assessments of the emergency communication service charge for a calendar month by the fifteenth business day of the following month and thereafter as prescribed in this section.



**SECTION 7.**

Wireless emergency telephone service shall not be used for personal use and shall be used solely for the use of communications by the public. Any person who knowingly uses or attempts to use wireless emergency telephone service for a purpose other than obtaining public safety assistance, or who knowingly uses or attempts to use wireless emergency telephone service in an effort to avoid any emergency communications charges, is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be subject to a fine of not more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) or imprisonment of not more than thirty (30) days in the county jail, or both such fine and imprisonment. If the value of the emergency communications charge or service obtained in a manner prohibited by this section exceeds One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00), the offense may be prosecuted as a felony and punishable by a fine of not more than Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) and imprisonment of not more than three (3) years, or both such fine and imprisonment.

**SECTION 8.**

The Department of Revenue shall pay all remitted emergency communications service charges over to the authority in accordance with Section 3(h) of this act, through contract or a memorandum of understanding, within thirty (30) days of receipt, for use by the authority in accordance with the purposes permitted by this act, after deducting an amount, not to exceed one-half percent (0.50%) of collected charges that shall be retained by the department to reimburse its direct costs of administering the



collection and remittance of emergency communication service charges.

**SECTION 9.** (1) Of the total funds received by any ECD from the Emergency Communications Public Safety Trust Fund, no less than thirty percent (30%) shall be deposited into the ECD NG911 Implementation Fund, and shall be used to plan and provide for the transition from legacy 911 to NG911 by implementing/deploying and maintaining core components of NG911 functionality, including an IP based system comprised of managed Emergency Services IP network services (ESInets), functional elements (applications), databases (GIS), and call handling systems that replicate traditional E911 features and functions and provides additional capabilities. ECD NG911 Implementation Funds shall not be used for operations for expenses that are not considered capital in nature. Except for expenses authorized in the State NG911 Plan, no ECD NG911 Implementation Funds may be used for augmentation of the ECD's land mobile radio system. The funds deposited in the EDC NG911 Implementation Fund shall accrue to the benefit of the ECD. No ECD may access and or expend ECD NG911 Implementation Funds until the authority, through written authorization from the director and the advisory board, has approved the ECD's NG911 Plan.

(2) The remainder of the total funds received by an ECD from the Emergency Communications Public Safety Trust Fund shall be deposited into the ECD Operations Fund and shall be limited to





provide PSAP services, including capital improvements, and in their normal ECD operations, including land mobile radio service.

**SECTION 10.** Each ECD shall submit a financial and program audit to the authority advisory board annually. Such program audits shall test whether emergency communications districts are spending funds in an efficient and effective manner and whether emergency communications districts are using best practices in contracting for goods and services. Audits shall meet the minimum standards prescribed. The MEMA/MECA shall also prescribe procedures necessary to assure that the books and records are kept in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

**SECTION 11.** All emergency communication districts must adopt an NG911 plan no later than December 31, 2030, and any district failing to adopt its plan by such date may not expend any monies from the NG911 CMRS Grant Fund or ECD NG911 Implementation Fund.

**SECTION 12.** Section 19-5-301, Mississippi Code of 1972, is brought forward as follows:

19-5-301. (1) The Legislature finds and declares it to be in the public interest to reduce the time required for a citizen to request and receive emergency aid, and to raise the level of competence of local public safety and 911 telecommunicators by establishing a minimum standard of training and certification for personnel involved in the answering and dispatching of calls to law enforcement, fire and emergency medical services. The provision of a single, primary three-digit emergency number



825 through which emergency services can be quickly and efficiently  
826 obtained will provide a significant contribution to law  
827 enforcement and other public service efforts by simplifying the  
828 notification of public service personnel. Such a simplified means  
829 of procuring emergency services will result in the saving of life,  
830 a reduction in the destruction of property, quicker apprehension  
831 of criminals and, ultimately, the saving of monies. Establishment  
832 of a uniform emergency number is a matter of concern and interest  
833 to all citizens of the state.

834 (2) The Legislature also finds and declares it to be in the  
835 public interest to reduce the time required for a citizen to  
836 request and receive emergency aid, by requiring all owners and  
837 renters of residences, buildings and structures to obtain a 911  
838 address from the county.

839 **SECTION 13.** Section 19-5-305, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
840 amended as follows:

841 19-5-305. (1) The board of supervisors of each county may  
842 create, by order duly adopted and entered on its minutes, an  
843 emergency communications district composed of all of the territory  
844 within the county.

845 (2) The board of supervisors of each county may, in its  
846 discretion, by order duly adopted and entered on its minutes,  
847 choose to create an emergency communications district in  
848 partnership with another board of supervisors to serve each of the  
849 counties represented in the partnership.



(3) The ECD shall have the authority to charge each qualified nonpublic user for costs associated with integrating and inclusion of the nonpublic user into the ECD's system.

**SECTION 14.** Section 19-5-307, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

19-5-307. (1) When any district is created, the board of supervisors of the county creating such district may appoint a board of commissioners composed of seven (7) members to govern its affairs, and shall fix the domicile of the board at any point within the district. The members of the board shall be qualified electors of the district, two (2) of whom shall be appointed for terms of two (2) years, three (3) for terms of three (3) years, and two (2) for terms of four (4) years, dating from the date of the adoption of the ordinance creating the district. Thereafter, all appointments of the members shall be for terms of four (4) years.

(2) The board of commissioners shall have complete and sole authority to appoint a chairman and any other officers it may deem necessary from among the membership of the board of commissioners.

(3) A majority of the board of commissioners membership shall constitute a quorum and all official action of the board of commissioners shall require a quorum.

(4) The board of commissioners shall have authority to employ such employees, experts and consultants as it may deem



necessary to assist the board of commissioners in the discharge of its responsibilities to the extent that funds are made available.

(5) In lieu of appointing a board of commissioners, the board of supervisors of the county may serve as the board of commissioners of the district, in which case it shall assume all the powers and duties of the board of commissioners as provided in Section 19-5-301 et seq.

(6) From and after the adoption of the State NG911 Plan, all emergency communications districts shall purchase, lease or lease-purchase any new equipment used to comply with \* \* \* requirements consistent with the State NG911 Plan from a products and equipment list maintained by the Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services; however, items not available from the list, or items which may be purchased at a lower price, shall be purchased in accordance with the Public Purchasing Law (Section 31-7-13).

**SECTION 15.** Section 19-5-315, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

19-5-315. \* \* \* ( \* \* \* 1) The governing authorities of any municipality which has established an emergency communications district under the provisions of a local and private act enacted prior to the effective date of Section 19-5-301 et seq., may merge such district with \* \* \* another ECD, by order duly adopted and entered on the minutes of the governing authority and after the board of supervisors has duly adopted and entered on its minutes a



899 similar order. After the \* \* \* ECD and the municipal districts  
900 have been merged, the local and private act for such municipality  
901 shall be of no force or effect.

902 ( \* \* \* 2) Two (2) or more \* \* \* ECDS may, by order duly  
903 adopted by each governing authority and entered on their minutes,  
904 establish a single emergency communications district to be  
905 composed of all of the territory within such \* \* \* ECD provided  
906 that \* \* \* each emergency communications district \* \* \* has been  
907 established in accordance with Section 19-5-305. When two (2) or  
908 more \* \* \* ECDS have established a single \* \* \* ECD as provided  
909 under this subsection, the board of commissioners of the district  
910 shall \* \* \* be determined by the governing authority of each \* \* \*  
911 ECD.

912 (3) A municipality may, in the form of a written agreement  
913 between the governing authorities of the municipality and the ECD  
914 it seeks to contract with, and with approval from the Mississippi  
915 Emergency Communications Authority, join another ECD. Such  
916 written agreement shall include that a fair share of funding shall  
917 be contributed by the municipality being served to the county  
918 operating the emergency communications district. Monies necessary  
919 for the fair share of funding shall be generated according to  
920 Section 3(7)(j) of this act and Section 8 of this act.

921 (4) An emergency communications district established under  
922 this section may serve the jurisdiction of more than one (1)



public agency of the county or municipality or, through mutual  
written agreements, more than one (1) county or municipality.

(5) Changes to an ECD's area of service, whether by  
consolidation, modification or otherwise, through memoranda of  
understanding shall be provided in writing and in standard GIS  
data file to MEMA/MECA within ten (10) days of date of change.

**SECTION 16.** Section 19-5-317, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
amended as follows:

19-5-317. (1) When there is not an emergency, no person  
shall make a \* \* \* call for service to \* \* \* a public safety  
answering point and knowingly or intentionally:

(a) Remain silent;

(b) Make abusive or harassing statements to an  
emergency telephone service employee;

(c) Report the existence of an emergency; or

(d) Falsely report a crime.

(2) No person shall knowingly permit a \* \* \* communications  
device under his control to be used by another person in a manner  
described in subsection (1) of this section.

(3) Conviction of a first offense under this section is  
punishable by a fine not to exceed Five Thousand Dollars  
(\$5,000.00) or by imprisonment for a period of time not to exceed  
one (1) year, or by both such fine and imprisonment. Conviction  
of any subsequent offense under this section is punishable by a  
fine not to exceed Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) or by



imprisonment for a period of time not to exceed three (3) years,  
or by both such fine and imprisonment.

\* \* \*

**SECTION 17.** Section 33-15-14, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
amended as follows:

33-15-14. (1) The agency is responsible for maintaining a  
comprehensive statewide program of emergency management. The  
agency is responsible for coordination with efforts of the federal  
government with other departments and agencies of state  
government, with county and municipal governments and school  
boards and with private agencies that have a role in emergency  
management.

(2) In performing its duties under this article, the agency  
shall:

(a) Work with the Governor, or his representative, in  
preparing a State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan of this  
state, which shall be integrated into and coordinated with the  
emergency management plans of the federal government and of other  
states to the fullest possible extent, and to coordinate the  
preparation of plans and programs for emergency management by the  
political subdivisions of the state, such local plans to be  
integrated into and coordinated with the emergency plan and  
program of this state. The plan must contain provisions to ensure  
that the state is prepared for emergencies and minor, major and  
catastrophic disasters, and the agency shall work closely with



973 local governments and agencies and organizations with emergency  
974 management responsibilities in preparing and maintaining the plan.  
975 The State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan will be  
976 operations oriented and:

977                   (i) Include an evacuation component that includes  
978 specific regional and interregional planning provisions and  
979 promotes intergovernmental coordination of evacuation activities.  
980 This component must, at a minimum: ensure coordination pertaining  
981 to evacuees crossing county lines; set forth procedures for  
982 directing people caught on evacuation routes to safe shelter; and  
983 establish policies and strategies for emergency medical  
984 evacuations.

985                   (ii) Include a shelter component that includes  
986 specific regional and interregional planning provisions and  
987 promotes coordination of shelter activities between the public,  
988 private and nonprofit sectors. This component must, at a minimum:  
989 contain strategies to ensure the availability of adequate public  
990 shelter space in each region of the state; establish strategies  
991 for refuge-of-last-resort programs; provide strategies to assist  
992 local emergency management efforts to ensure that adequate  
993 staffing plans exist for all shelters, including medical and  
994 security personnel; provide for a postdisaster communications  
995 system for public shelters; establish model shelter guidelines for  
996 operations, registration, inventory, power generation capability,





information management and staffing; and set forth policy guidance for sheltering people with special needs.

(iii) Include a postdisaster response and recovery component that includes specific regional and interregional planning provisions and promotes intergovernmental coordination of postdisaster response and recovery activities. This component must provide for postdisaster response and recovery strategies according to whether a disaster is minor, major or catastrophic. The postdisaster response and recovery component must, at a minimum: establish the structure of the state's postdisaster response and recovery organization; establish procedures for activating the state's plan; set forth policies used to guide postdisaster response and recovery activities; describe the chain of command during the postdisaster response and recovery period; describe initial and continuous postdisaster response and recovery actions; identify the roles and responsibilities of each involved agency and organization; provide for a comprehensive communications plan; establish procedures for monitoring mutual aid agreements; provide for rapid impact assessment teams; ensure the availability of an effective statewide urban search and rescue program coordinated with the fire services; ensure the existence of a comprehensive statewide medical care and relief plan administered by the State Department of Health; and establish systems for coordinating volunteers and accepting and distributing donated funds and goods.



1022                   (iv) Include additional provisions addressing  
1023 aspects of preparedness, response and recovery, as determined  
1024 necessary by the agency.

1025                   (v) Address the need for coordinated and  
1026 expeditious deployment of state resources, including the  
1027 Mississippi National Guard. In the case of an imminent major  
1028 disaster, procedures should address predeployment of the  
1029 Mississippi National Guard, and, in the case of an imminent  
1030 catastrophic disaster, procedures should address predeployment of  
1031 the Mississippi National Guard and the United States Armed Forces.  
1032 This subparagraph (v) does not authorize the agency to call out  
1033 and deploy the Mississippi National Guard, which authority and  
1034 determination rests solely with the Governor.

1035                   (vi) Establish a system of communications and  
1036 warning to ensure that the state's population and emergency  
1037 management agencies are warned of developing emergency situations  
1038 and can communicate emergency response decisions.

1039                   (vii) Establish guidelines and schedules for  
1040 annual exercises that evaluate the ability of the state and its  
1041 political subdivisions to respond to minor, major and catastrophic  
1042 disasters and support local emergency management agencies. Such  
1043 exercises shall be coordinated with local governments and, to the  
1044 extent possible, the federal government.



1045 (viii) 1. Assign lead and support  
1046 responsibilities to state agencies and personnel for emergency  
1047 support functions and other support activities.

1048 2. The agency shall prepare an interim  
1049 postdisaster response and recovery component that substantially  
1050 complies with the provisions of this paragraph (a). Each state  
1051 agency assigned lead responsibility for an emergency support  
1052 function by the State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan  
1053 shall also prepare a detailed operational plan needed to implement  
1054 its responsibilities. The complete State Comprehensive Emergency  
1055 Management Plan shall be submitted to the Governor no later than  
1056 January 1, 1996, and on January 1 of every even-numbered year  
1057 thereafter.

1058 (b) Adopt standards and requirements for county  
1059 emergency management plans. The standards and requirements must  
1060 ensure that county plans are coordinated and consistent with the  
1061 State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. If a municipality  
1062 elects to establish an emergency management program, it must adopt  
1063 a city emergency management plan that complies with all standards  
1064 and requirements applicable to county emergency management plans.

1065 (c) Assist political subdivisions in preparing and  
1066 maintaining emergency management plans.

1067 (d) Review periodically political subdivision emergency  
1068 management plans for consistency with the State Comprehensive



1069 Emergency Management Plan and standards and requirements adopted  
1070 under this section.

1071 (e) Make recommendations to the Legislature, building  
1072 code organizations and political subdivisions for zoning, building  
1073 and other land use controls, safety measures for securing mobile  
1074 homes or other nonpermanent or semipermanent structures; and other  
1075 preparedness, prevention and mitigation measures designed to  
1076 eliminate emergencies or reduce their impact.

1077 (f) In accordance with the State Comprehensive  
1078 Emergency Management Plan and program for emergency management,  
1079 ascertain the requirements of the state, its political  
1080 subdivisions and the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians for  
1081 equipment and supplies of all kinds in the event of an emergency;  
1082 plan for and either procure supplies, medicines, materials and  
1083 equipment or enter into memoranda of agreement or open purchase  
1084 orders that will ensure their availability; and use and employ  
1085 from time to time any of the property, services and resources  
1086 within the state in accordance with this article.

1087 (g) Anticipate trends and promote innovations that will  
1088 enhance the emergency management system.

1089 (h) Prepare and distribute to appropriate state and  
1090 local officials catalogs of federal, state and private assistance  
1091 programs.

1092 (i) Implement training programs to improve the ability  
1093 of state and local emergency management personnel to prepare and



1094 implement emergency management plans and programs, and require all  
1095 local civil defense directors or emergency management directors to  
1096 complete such training as a condition to their authority to  
1097 continue service in their emergency management positions.

1098           (j) Review periodically emergency operating procedures  
1099 of state agencies and recommend revisions as needed to ensure  
1100 consistency with the State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan  
1101 and program.

1102           (k) Prepare, in advance whenever possible, such  
1103 executive orders, proclamations and rules for issuance by the  
1104 Governor as are necessary or appropriate for coping with  
1105 emergencies and disasters.

1106           (l) Cooperate with the federal government and any  
1107 public or private agency or entity in achieving any purpose of  
1108 this article.

1109           (m) Assist political subdivisions with the creation and  
1110 training of urban search and rescue teams and promote the  
1111 development and maintenance of a state urban search and rescue  
1112 program.

1113           (n) Delegate, as necessary and appropriate, authority  
1114 vested in it under this article and provide for the subdelegation  
1115 of such authority.

1116           (o) Require each county or municipality to designate an  
1117 agent for working with the agency in the event of a natural  
1118 disaster. The county or municipality may designate any person as



1119 agent who has completed training programs required of emergency  
1120 management directors.

1121 (p) Report biennially to the Governor and the President  
1122 of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, no  
1123 later than January 1 of every odd-numbered year, the status of the  
1124 emergency management capabilities of the state and its political  
1125 subdivisions.

1126 (q) In accordance with Section 25-43-1 et seq., create,  
1127 implement, administer, promulgate, amend and rescind rules,  
1128 programs and plans needed to carry out the provisions of this  
1129 article with due consideration for, and in cooperating with, the  
1130 plans and programs of the federal government.

1131 (r) Have the sole power and discretion to enter into,  
1132 sign, execute and deliver long-term or multiyear leases of real  
1133 and personal property with other state and federal agencies.

1134 (s) Do other things necessary, incidental or  
1135 appropriate for the implementation of this article.

1136 (t) In accordance with Section 33-15-15, create,  
1137 implement, administer, promulgate, amend and rescind rules  
1138 regarding the development of the Mississippi Disaster Reservist  
1139 Program.

1140 (u) Unless otherwise instructed by the Governor,  
1141 sponsor and develop mutual aid plans and agreements between the  
1142 political subdivisions of the state and the Mississippi Band of



Choctaw Indians similar to the mutual aid arrangements with other states referenced in Section 33-15-11(b) (10).

(v) Serve as the statewide coordinator for Emergency Communications, including 911, E911, NG911 and all other related functions.

**SECTION 18.** Section 33-15-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is brought forward as follows:

33-15-7. (a) There is hereby created within the executive branch of the state government a department called the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency with a director of emergency management who shall be appointed by the Governor; he shall hold office during the pleasure of the Governor and shall be compensated as determined by any appropriation that may be made by the Legislature for such purposes.

(b) The director, with the approval of the Governor, may employ such technical, clerical, stenographic and other personnel, to be compensated as provided in any appropriation that may be made for such purpose, and may make such expenditures within the appropriation therefor, or from other funds made available to him for purposes of emergency management, as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this article.

(c) The director and other personnel of the emergency management agency shall be provided with appropriate office space, furniture, equipment, supplies, stationery and printing in the same manner as provided for other state agencies.



1168           (d) The director, subject to the direction and control of  
1169 the Governor, shall be the executive head of the emergency  
1170 management agency and shall be responsible to the Governor for  
1171 carrying out the program for emergency management of this state.  
1172 He shall coordinate the activities of all organizations for  
1173 emergency management within the state, and shall maintain liaison  
1174 with and cooperate with emergency management agencies and  
1175 organizations of other states and of the federal government, and  
1176 shall have such additional authority, duties, and responsibilities  
1177 authorized by this article as may be prescribed by the Governor.

1178           **SECTION 19.** Section 19-5-343, which provides for collection  
1179 and remittance of E911 charge, administration of E911 charge,  
1180 immunity, and exclusivity of prepaid wireless E911 charge, is  
1181 hereby repealed.

1182           **SECTION 20.** Section 19-5-303, Mississippi Code of 1972,  
1183 which provides definitions, is hereby repealed.

1184           **SECTION 21.** Section 19-5-311, Mississippi Code of 1972,  
1185 which provides for responding to emergency calls, is hereby  
1186 repealed.

1187           **SECTION 22.** Section 19-5-313, Mississippi Code of 1972,  
1188 which provides for emergency telephone services charges, is hereby  
1189 repealed.

1190           **SECTION 23.** Section 19-5-331, Mississippi Code of 1972,  
1191 which defines certain terms as used in the provisions providing





1192 for enhanced wireless emergency telephone service, is hereby  
1193 repealed.

1194       **SECTION 24.** Section 19-5-333, Mississippi Code of 1972,  
1195 which creates the Commercial Mobile Radio Service Board and  
1196 provides for its powers and duties, is hereby repealed.

1197       **SECTION 25.** Section 19-5-335, Mississippi Code of 1972,  
1198 which provides for the collection of services charges by the  
1199 Commercial Mobile Radio Service Board and requires registration of  
1200 Commercial Mobile Radio Service providers, is hereby repealed.

1201       **SECTION 26.** Section 19-5-337, Mississippi Code of 1972,  
1202 which provides for the confidentiality of proprietary information  
1203 submitted to the Commercial Mobile Radio Service Board, is hereby  
1204 repealed.

1205       **SECTION 27.** Section 19-5-339, Mississippi Code of 1972,  
1206 which provides for the requirement to provide enhanced 911  
1207 service, is hereby repealed.

1208       **SECTION 28.** Section 19-5-341, Mississippi Code of 1972,  
1209 which makes it an offense and provides criminal penalties for  
1210 using wireless emergency telephone service for personal use, is  
1211 hereby repealed.

1212       **SECTION 29.** Section 19-5-343, Mississippi Code of 1972,  
1213 which provides for the collection and remittance of prepaid  
1214 wireless E911 charges, is hereby repealed.

1215       **SECTION 30.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
1216 and after July 1, 2025, and shall stand repealed on June 30, 2025.

