

By: Senator(s) DeLano

To: Technology

SENATE BILL NO. 2835  
(As Sent to Governor)

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 REQUIRE THE AUTHORITY TO ADMINISTER, RECEIVE, AND  
6 AUDIT EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE CHARGES; TO REQUIRE THE  
7 AUTHORITY TO DEVELOP, ESTABLISH, AND PUBLISH A STATE NG911 PLAN;  
8 TO REQUIRE THE AUTHORITY TO PUBLISH MINIMUM STANDARDS,  
9 SPECIFICATIONS, AND REQUIREMENTS FOR EACH ECD NG911 PLAN; TO  
10 PRESCRIBE THE AUTHORITY'S DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES; TO  
11 ESTABLISH THE NG911 CMRS GRANT FUND; TO DESCRIBE THE AUTHORITY'S  
12 POWERS; TO STIPULATE THAT ALL MONIES RECEIVED BY THE AUTHORITY  
13 PURSUANT TO THIS ACT SHALL BE DEEMED TRUST FUNDS; TO STIPULATE  
14 THAT THIS ACT SHALL BE LIBERALLY CONSTRUED TO EFFECT THE PURPOSES  
15 OF THIS ACT FOR THE WELFARE OF THE STATE AND ITS INHABITANTS; TO  
16 ESTABLISH CONFIDENTIALITY FOR INFORMATION SUBMITTED TO THE  
17 AUTHORITY OR THE DEPARTMENT; TO STIPULATE THAT THE ATTORNEY  
18 GENERAL SHALL PROVIDE LEGAL SERVICES TO THE AUTHORITY; TO OUTLINE  
19 EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE CHARGES; TO STIPULATE THAT  
20 CHARGES COLLECTED BY SERVICE PROVIDERS SHALL BE REMITTED TO THE  
21 DEPARTMENT ACCORDING TO CHAPTER 65 OF TITLE 27; TO CREATE CERTAIN  
22 PROVISIONS FOR THE REMITTANCE OF CHARGES; TO PROVIDE FOR THE  
23 APPLICATION OF THE EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION SERVICE CHARGE; TO  
24 ESTABLISH LIABILITY FOR THE EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE  
25 CHARGE; TO ACCOUNT FOR PREPAID WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE; TO  
26 PROVIDE FOR AUDIT AND APPEAL PROCEDURES; TO CREATE A TIMELINE FOR  
27 INTRODUCING THE NEW SYSTEM; TO STIPULATE THAT WIRELESS EMERGENCY  
28 TELEPHONE SERVICE SHALL NOT BE USED FOR PERSONAL USE; TO ACCOUNT  
29 FOR DEPOSIT AND DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS COLLECTED UNDER THIS ACT; TO  
30 REQUIRE ECDS TO SUBMIT FINANCIAL AND PROGRAM REPORTS TO THE  
31 AUTHORITY ADVISORY BOARD ON AN ANNUAL BASIS; TO REQUIRE EACH ECD  
32 TO ADOPT AN NG911 PLAN NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 31, 2030; TO AMEND  
33 SECTION 19-5-305, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE FOR THE  
34 CREATION OF AN ECD; TO AMEND SECTION 19-5-307, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF



35 1972, TO CONFORM; TO AMEND SECTION 19-5-315, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF  
36 1972, TO CONFORM; TO AMEND SECTION 19-5-317, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF  
37 1972, TO CONFORM; TO AMEND SECTION 33-15-14, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF  
38 1972, TO REQUIRE THE AGENCY TO SERVE AS THE STATEWIDE COORDINATOR  
39 FOR EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS; TO REPEAL SECTIONS 19-5-303,  
40 19-5-311, 19-5-313, 19-5-331, 19-5-333, 19-5-335, 19-5-337,  
41 19-5-339, 19-5-341, 19-5-343, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, RELATED TO  
42 THE EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SERVICE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

46 **SECTION 2.** As used in this act, the following terms shall  
47 have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates  
48 otherwise:

49 (a) "Authority" means the Mississippi Emergency  
50 Communications Authority. The authority is a subdivision of the  
51 Mississippi Emergency Management Agency for all purposes and  
52 reports directly to the MEMA Executive Director. The director of  
53 the authority shall be the Emergency Management Communications  
54 Coordinator of the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA).

55 (b) "Advisory board" or "board" means the Mississippi  
56 Emergency Communication Authority (MECA) Advisory Board as  
57 appointed in Section 4 of this act.

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

61 (d) "Public safety answering point" or "PSAP" means an  
62 entity responsible for receiving 911 calls and processing those  
63 calls according to a specific operational policy.



64 (e) "Commercial mobile radio service provider" or "CMRS  
65 provider" has the same meaning as defined in 47 CFR 9.3.

66 (f) "NG911" means Next Generation 911: a secure,  
67 internet protocol (IP)-based, open-standards system comprised of  
68 hardware, software, data and operational policies and procedures.  
69 NG911 is designed to provide access to emergency services from all  
70 connected communications sources and to provide multimedia data  
71 capabilities for Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) and other  
72 emergency service organizations. NG911:

73 (i) Provides standardized interfaces from  
74 emergency call and message services to support emergency  
75 communications;

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

78 (iii) Acquires and integrates additional emergency  
79 call data useful to call routing and handling;

80 (iv) Delivers the emergency calls, messages, and  
81 data to the appropriate Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) and  
82 other appropriate emergency entities based on the location of the  
83 caller;

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

86 (vi) Interoperates with services and networks used  
87 by first responders (and other 911 systems) to facilitate  
88 emergency response.



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

95                   (h) "Emergency communications service charge" means the  
96 emergency communications service charge levied, maintained and  
97 collected according to this act.

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

102                   (j) "Exchange access facility" means all lines provided  
103 by the service supplier for the provision of local exchange  
104 service as defined in existing general subscriber services  
105 tariffs.

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



(l) "Service supplier" means any person providing exchange telephone service to any service user throughout a county.

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

(n) "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.

(o) "Prepaid wireless communications service" means a wireless communications service that allows a caller to access a PSAP through a placed call or wireless data connection. Such 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.

(p) "Service provider" means an entity which 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. This definition applies 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 NG911 service.

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

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

(t) "Emergency Services IP Network" or "ESInet" means a managed IP network that is used for emergency services communications and can be shared by all public safety agencies. ESInet provides the IP transport infrastructure upon which independent application platforms and core services can be



162 deployed, including, but not restricted to, those necessary for  
163 providing NG911 services. ESInets may be constructed from a mix  
164 of dedicated and shared facilities. ESInets may be interconnected  
165 at local, regional, state, federal, national and international  
166 levels to form an IP-based internetwork, or a network of networks.  
167 ESInet is the designation for the network but not for services  
168 provided by the network.

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

172 (v) "State NG911 Plan" means a comprehensive strategy  
173 developed by the state to transition from 911 to Next Generation  
174 911 technology.

175 (w) "NG911 CMRS Grant Fund" means the fund established  
176 in Section 7 of this act.

177 (x) "ECD NG911 implementation fund" means a fund  
178 established in each individual ECD for the purpose of NG911  
179 implementation.

180 (y) "Operations fund" means a fund established to cover  
181 operational expenses for the ECD for capital improvements, normal  
182 operations, and provision of PSAP services.

183 (z) "State NG911 Fund" means a fund specifically used  
184 to implement, deploy, maintain and upgrade as necessary a  
185 statewide NG911 Services Network, activities and/or infrastructure  
186 and other duties of the Mississippi Emergency Communications



Authority as set forth in this act and consistent with the State  
NG911 Plan.

(aa) "Location" means a single physical address.

(bb) "Department" means the Mississippi Department of  
Revenue.

**SECTION 3.** There is established the Mississippi Emergency  
Communications Authority as an instrumentality of the state. The  
authority and service providers shall work in cooperation with  
state and local governments to create a technical and operational  
framework for implementing and operating an interoperable and  
interconnected NG911 public safety network. The authority may  
contract and be contracted with and defend and bring actions,  
including, but not limited to, invoking a private right of action  
to enforce this act. The authority shall exist within the  
Mississippi Emergency Management Agency for all operational  
purposes. The Executive Director of MEMA shall be the ultimate  
authority and administrative head of the Mississippi Emergency  
Communications Authority. The Executive Director of MEMA shall  
select a director to manage the authority. Such director shall be  
responsible for ensuring that the authority remains compliant with  
applicable state and federal programs and law. All employees of  
the authority, including the appointed director, shall serve at  
the will and pleasure of the Executive Director of MEMA.

**SECTION 4.** (1) Management of the authority shall be vested  
in the director, with an advisory board to offer technical





guidance and recommendations, which shall consist of the following members:

(a) The Commissioner of Public Safety, or his or her designee;

(b) One (1) member appointed by the Governor selected from two (2) nominees submitted by the GIS Coordinating Council;

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

(d) One (1) member appointed by the Governor selected from two (2) nominees submitted by the Mississippi Chapter of the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials;

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

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

(g) One (1) member appointed by the Lieutenant Governor, selected from two (2) nominees submitted by the Mississippi Association of Supervisors, who is one of either a county manager, county administrator or finance officer from a county that operates or contracts for the operation of a public safety answering point;



(h) One (1) member appointed by the Governor, selected from two (2) nominees submitted by Mississippi Emergency Medical Services;

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

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

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

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

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

(2) The initial term for appointments made pursuant to paragraphs (b), (c), (d), (e), (f) and (g) of subsection (1) of



262 this section shall be from July 1, 2025, until June 30, 2028.  
263 These initial appointments shall be made by July 1, 2025. The  
264 initial term for appointments made pursuant to paragraphs (h),  
265 (i), (j), (k), (l) and (m) of subsection (1) of this section shall  
266 be from July 1, 2025, until June 30, 2027. All subsequent terms  
267 shall be for three (3) years. Any vacancies that occur prior to  
268 the end of a term shall be filled by appointment in the same  
269 manner as the original appointment and shall be for the remainder  
270 of the unexpired term. Any vacancy occurring on the board,  
271 whether for an expired or unexpired term, shall be filled by  
272 appointment as soon as practicable after the vacancy occurs. Upon  
273 expiration of his or her term of office, a board member shall  
274 continue to serve until his or her successor has been duly  
275 appointed and qualified. Members may be appointed to successive  
276 terms. Appointments made at times when the Senate is not in  
277 session shall be effective immediately ad interim, and appointees  
278 shall serve until the Senate acts on the appointment as provided  
279 herein. Any appointments made while the Senate is not in session  
280 shall be submitted to the Senate not later than the third  
281 legislative day following the reconvening of the Legislature. In  
282 the event the Senate fails or refuses to act on the appointment,  
283 the person whose name was submitted shall continue to serve until  
284 action is taken on the appointment by the Senate.

285 (3) The board may appoint additional ex officio nonvoting  
286 members to serve in an advisory role to the board. Such advisers



shall not be counted in ascertaining if a quorum is present. Such members shall include, but shall not be limited to:

(a) Two (2) representatives of MEMA:

(i) One (1) shall be employed by MEMA in a legal capacity; and

(ii) One (1) shall be employed by MEMA in an accounting capacity;

(b) The Chairman of the Senate Technology Committee, or his or her designee;

(c) The Chairman of the House of Representatives Technology Committee, or his or her designee;

(d) The Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, or his or her designee; and

(e) The Chairman of a House of Representative Appropriations Committee, or his or her designee, to be chosen by the Speaker of the House.

(4) Members of the advisory board shall receive no compensation for their services, but the authority may reimburse members from funds of the authority as provided by state law for travel associated with their service. Such amount shall not exceed the reimbursement authorized for state officers and employees in Section 25-3-41.

(5) 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.



(6) The director of the authority shall convene the initial meeting of the board 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 a vice chairperson, a secretary and a treasurer from among its membership.

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

**SECTION 5.** (1) Along with the department, 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 act, and on such terms and conditions as are in the best interest of the operations of ECDs.

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



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

**SECTION 6.** The authority shall have the duty and responsibility to:

(a) Develop and adopt an annual budget for implementation, management, upgrades, deployments, and operations consistent with the State NG911 Plan. Such plan must be submitted to and approved by the Legislative Budget Office;

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

(c) Study, evaluate and establish technology standards for regional and statewide provision of a public safety communications network and NG911 systems;

(d) Review and revise technology standards based on orders and rulings by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC);

(e) Identify and recommend any changes necessary to accomplish a more effective, efficient and sustainable emergency communication service across the state, including consolidation and interoperability of PSAPs and/or 911 systems, recommending a long-term plan for standardization of operational processes and training, recommending any necessary legislation to implement the long-term strategic State NG911 Plan, and reporting its



recommendations to the Legislature. The authority shall also make its report of such proposed changes available to the Legislative Services Offices of the Senate and the House of Representatives;

(f) Identify and recommend any changes necessary in the assessment and collection of emergency communication service charges and provide a report to the Legislature. The authority shall also make its report of such changes available to the Legislative Services Office of the Senate and the House of Representatives;

(g) Develop, offer or make recommendations to the Mississippi Board of Emergency Telecommunications Standards and Training according to Section 19-5-351 and other state agencies about standardized training that should be provided to telecommunicators, trainers, supervisors and directors of Public Safety Answering Points;

(h) Recommend minimum standards for the operation of public safety answering points, develop and implement an internal quality assurance program and monitor local and regional PSAP compliance with technical and operational standards, requirements and practices;

(i) Collect data regarding the performance and operation of public safety answering points and coordinate with ECDs to provide technical assistance when requested;

(j) Identify any necessary changes or enhancements to the State NG911;



(k) Establish policies and procedures to develop and implement a plan to provide NG911 services statewide;

(l) Investigate Geographical Information Systems Standards and mapping and incorporate them, as well as other resources, into the State NG911 Plan;

(m) Address any adverse findings noted in ECD financial and program reports and to order such action as may be necessary to remedy the adverse findings. Such remedies may include, but not be limited to, withholding transfers from the Emergency Communication Public Safety Trust Fund; and

(n) Develop a CMRS Implementation Grant Program to provide 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 the ECD, efficiency of operations and achievement of consolidation of PSAPs. The scoring shall seek to promote a reduction of statewide PSAPs. Upon appropriation by the Legislature, funds available in the NG911 CMRS Grant Fund shall be used for grant programs and amounts awarded to ECDs shall be transferred to the ECD's NG911 Implementation Fund for the purposes stated in Section 16 of this act.

**SECTION 7.** (1) There is created in the State Treasury a special fund to be designated as the "NG911 CMRS Grant Fund." The





fund shall be maintained by the State Treasurer as a separate and special fund, separate and apart from the General Fund of the state. Subject to appropriation by the Legislature, monies in the fund shall be disbursed by the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency only for capital improvements, equipment, software and other expenses directly attributed to the implementation of approved ECD NG911 plans, as well as for related purposes approved by the authority. Unexpended amounts remaining in the fund at the end of a fiscal year shall not lapse into the State General Fund, and any interest earned or investment earnings on amounts in the fund shall be deposited into such fund.

(2) Upon July 1, 2025, the existing CMRS board shall remit to the NG911 CMRS Grant Fund all revenues accrued from the existing accounts payable fund as established in Section 19-5-333.

**SECTION 8.** The authority shall:

(a) Require each ECD to submit a plan to implement a NG911 program consistent with this act. The ECD may obtain technical assistance from the authority in formulating its plan. Each NG911 plan shall:

(i) Be designed to meet the individual circumstances of each community and public agency participating in the ECD; and

(ii) Consider potential efficiencies achieved from regionalization and consolidation.



436           Once the board reviews each ECD's plan for completeness and  
437 compliance with the State NG911 Plan, the board shall vote to make  
438 a recommendation to the director. The director may either  
439 approve, deny or remand the plan back to the board with notes for  
440 further work. Upon final approval by the director, the board  
441 shall certify the ECD NG911 plan for period of time as stated in  
442 the State NG911 Plan;

443           (b) Identify and define all ECDs created in Section  
444 19-5-315 throughout the state by geospatial layer. The authority  
445 shall adopt a schedule of all zip codes plus four (4) designations  
446 for ECDs in the state as required by the federal Universal  
447 Sourcing Act. If any ECD has within its jurisdiction a zip code  
448 designation that does not adhere to ECD boundary lines, such  
449 affected ECDs shall assist the authority in determining the  
450 appropriate allocation of Emergency Communications Public Safety  
451 Trust Fund for each ECD for scheduling and distribution formula  
452 purposes. The authority shall maintain a published map of all ECD  
453 districts;

454           (c) Make and execute contracts, lease agreements, and  
455 any other instrument necessary to exercise the powers of the  
456 authority or to further the public purpose for which the authority  
457 is created, including, but not limited to, professional services;

458           (d) Acquire by purchase, lease, or otherwise and hold,  
459 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 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, the state government, or any agency or instrumentality thereof, or any other source for any purpose specified in this act, and to comply, subject to the provisions of this act, with the terms and conditions thereof;

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

(g) Administer the NG911 CMRS Grant Fund and the State NG911 Fund;

(h) Retain, during each calendar month, an amount not to exceed seven percent (7%) of the total service charges remitted to the department from the emergency communications service charge and deposit such funds into a special fund established in the State Treasury to be designated the "State NG911 Fund." The State NG911 Fund shall be used for the purpose of administration and operations of the authority and costs directly 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



485 into the General Fund, and interest earned on any amounts  
486 deposited into the fund shall be credited to the special fund.  
487 All remaining monies in the Emergency Communications Service  
488 Charge shall be deposited into the Emergency Communications Public  
489 Safety Trust Fund as established hereinafter;

490 (i) Receive, manage and control the fund established in  
491 the State Treasury designated as the "Emergency Communications  
492 Public Safety Trust Fund" pursuant to Section 13 of this act. The  
493 revenues which are deposited into the Emergency Communications  
494 Public Safety Trust Fund shall not be monies or property of the  
495 state and shall not be subject to appropriation by the  
496 Legislature. Monies in the fund at the end of the fiscal year  
497 shall not lapse into the General Fund. The Emergency  
498 Communications Public Safety Trust Fund shall be deposited into an  
499 insured, interest-bearing account, and interest earned shall be  
500 credited to the special fund;

501 (j) Establish and maintain a distribution formula for  
502 the department to make disbursements from the "Emergency  
503 Communications Public Safety Trust Fund" to the ECDs. The  
504 distribution formula shall be developed and maintained by the  
505 advisory board to use all information acquired pursuant to Section  
506 13 of this act and any other creditable information available to  
507 ensure accurate and fair distributions of the Emergency  
508 Communications Public Safety Trust Fund to the benefit of each  
509 ECD, less the provision in paragraph (i) of this subsection. Such



510 formula for wired, voice over IP and wireless shall be based on  
511 the zip code plus four (4) designations as required by the  
512 Universal Sourcing Act and paragraph (b) of this subsection. Such  
513 formula shall also include prepaid wireless emergency service  
514 charges according to the following: The amount of the  
515 distribution shall be determined by dividing the population of the  
516 communications district by the state population, and then  
517 multiplying that quotient times the total revenues remitted to the  
518 department after deducting the amount authorized in this  
519 subsection. The advisory board shall establish a stated process  
520 for amending, appealing and otherwise managing the distribution  
521 formula. The director must approve the distribution formula prior  
522 to formal implementation;

523 (k) Receive from the department and maintain a  
524 registration database of all service providers and notify the  
525 department as necessary of any provider that fails to comply with  
526 the requirements of this act; and

527 (l) Promulgate such rules and regulations as may be  
528 necessary to effect the provisions of this act.

529 **SECTION 9.** All monies received by the authority pursuant to  
530 this act shall be deemed to be trust funds to be held and applied  
531 solely as provided in this act.

532 **SECTION 10.** This act, used for the welfare of the state and  
533 its inhabitants, shall be liberally construed to effect the  
534 purposes thereof.



**SECTION 11.**

All information submitted to the authority or to the department as required by this act shall be subject to review only by the authority and the department. 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 department without the express permission of the department and the submitting service provider. General information collected by the department shall only be released or published in aggregate amounts which do not identify or allow identification of numbers of subscribers or revenues attributable to an individual service provider.

**SECTION 12.**

The Attorney General shall provide legal services for the authority.

**SECTION 13.**

(1) Beginning January 1, 2026, the state hereby levies an emergency communications service charge, and all service providers shall remit such charge to the Department of Revenue in an amount of Two Dollars (\$2.00) per residential telephone subscriber line per month, Two Dollars (\$2.00) per commercial telephone subscriber line per month for exchange telephone service, Two Dollars (\$2.00) per Voice over Internet Protocol subscriber account per month, 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.



(a) When a service provider delivers service to the same person, business, or organization the voice channel capacity to make more than one (1) simultaneous outbound call from an exchange access facility, each such separate simultaneous outbound call voice channel capacity, regardless of technology, 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.

(b) When the same person, business, or organization has several wireless telephones, each CMRS connection shall constitute a separate service.

(c) 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 infrastructure shall not have an emergency communications service charge levied against them.

(d) For the department to compute 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 shared simultaneous outbound voice channel capacity configured to and capable of accessing a PSAP in



585 different states to multiple locations, the monthly emergency  
586 communications service charge shall be assessed only for the  
587 portion of such shared voice channel capacity in Mississippi as  
588 identified by the service provider's books and records. In  
589 determining the portion of the shared capacity in the state, the  
590 department may rely on, among other factors, a customer's  
591 certification of its allocation of capacity in Mississippi, which  
592 may be based on each end user location, the total number of end  
593 users, and the number of end users at each end user location.

594 (e) (i) For prepaid wireless communications service,  
595 the emergency communications service charge shall be collected by  
596 the seller from the consumer with respect to each retail  
597 transaction occurring in this state. The amount of the emergency  
598 communications service charge shall be either separately stated on  
599 an invoice, receipt or other similar document that is provided to  
600 the consumer by the seller, or otherwise disclosed to the  
601 consumer.

602 (ii) The prepaid wireless emergency service charge  
603 is the liability of the consumer and not of the seller or of any  
604 service provider, except that the seller shall be liable to remit  
605 all prepaid wireless emergency service charges that the seller  
606 collects from consumers as provided in subsection (1) of this  
607 section, including all such charges that the seller is deemed to  
608 have collected where the amount of the charge has not been





separately stated on an invoice, receipt or other similar document provided to the consumer by the seller.

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

(iv) The department shall pay all remitted prepaid wireless emergency communication service in the same manner as subsection 2(d) of this section.

(2) (a) Emergency communications service charges collected by service providers shall be remitted to the department at the times and in the manner provided by Chapter 65 of Title 27 with respect to sales and use taxes. The department shall establish registration and payment procedures that substantially coincide with the registration and payment procedures that apply to Chapter 65 of Title 27. Interest and penalty provisions provided under Chapter 65 of Title 27 also apply.

(b) The audit and appeal procedures applicable to Chapter 65 of Title 27 shall apply to prepaid wireless E911 charges.

(c) The department shall establish procedures by which a service provider may document that a sale is not a retail transaction, which procedures shall substantially coincide with the procedures for documenting a sale for resale transactions for sales and use tax purposes under Chapter 65 of Title 27.



634           (d) The department shall pay all remitted emergency  
635 communications service charges as prescribed by the authority  
636 directly to the ECDs and the authority through the "Emergency  
637 Communications Public Safety Trust Fund," by the fifteenth of the  
638 month following the month of receipt, after deducting an amount  
639 not to exceed one-half percent (0.5%) of collected charges, that  
640 shall be retained by the department to reimburse its direct costs  
641 of administering the collection and remittance of emergency  
642 communications service charges.

643           (3) For wired, wireless and Voice over IP services, each  
644 service provider shall act as a collection agent for the emergency  
645 communications service charge and shall, as part of the provider's  
646 normal monthly billing process, collect the emergency  
647 communications service charges levied upon providers and customers  
648 pursuant to subsection (1) of this section. A return, in such  
649 form as the department prescribes, shall be filed with the  
650 department, to include aggregate emergency communications service  
651 charges collected and reported to the Department of Revenue on a  
652 county or ECD basis as determined based on the customer's service  
653 address by the authority, using a zip code plus four (4)  
654 designation as required by the federal Uniform Sourcing Act and a  
655 remittance of the amount of service charge collected payable to  
656 the Emergency Communications Services Charge Fund.

657           (4) Each service provider shall be entitled to deduct and  
658 retain from the emergency communications service charges collected



659 by such provider during each calendar month an amount not to  
660 exceed one-half percent (0.5%) of the gross aggregate amount of  
661 such collections as reimbursement for the actual costs incurred by  
662 such provider in collecting, handling and processing such  
663 emergency communications service charges.

664 (5) Each service provider that chooses to pass through the  
665 charge shall list the emergency communications service charge as a  
666 separate entry on each bill. For each service provider that  
667 provides an all-inclusive monthly charge, the service provider  
668 shall include the emergency communications service charge in the  
669 customer's monthly charge.

670 (6) The emergency communications service charge is the  
671 liability of the consumer and not the service provider. The  
672 service provider shall have no obligation to take any legal action  
673 to enforce the collection of any emergency communications service  
674 charge.

675 (7) The amount of the emergency communications service  
676 charge that is collected by a service provider or seller from a  
677 consumer shall not be considered revenue for any purpose and,  
678 therefore, shall not be included in the base for measuring any  
679 tax, fee, surcharge or other charge that is imposed by this state,  
680 any political subdivision of this state or any intergovernmental  
681 agency.

682 (8) No service provider or seller of prepaid wireless  
683 communications service shall be liable for damages to any person



resulting from or incurred in connection with accessing or attempting to access emergency services.

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

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

(11) The emergency communications service charge provided in this section and the service charge provided in Section 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.

**SECTION 14.** 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 of assessment.

(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 thirtieth business day of the following month and thereafter as prescribed in this section.

**SECTION 15.** 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. 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.

**SECTION 16.** (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 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 provide additional capabilities. 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 NG911 Plan. ECD NG911 implementation funds shall only be used for capital expenditures and operational expenses approved in the ECD NG911 plan. Except for expenses authorized in the ECD NG911 Plan, ECD NG911 implementation funds shall not be used for augmentation of the ECD's land mobile radio system. The funds deposited in the ECD NG911 implementation fund shall accrue to the benefit of the ECD. After an ECD's NG911 plan has been approved by the authority, the



ECD is no longer required to segregate at least thirty percent (30%) of funds as stipulated herein.

(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's operations fund and shall be limited to providing PSAP services, including capital improvements, and in their normal ECD operations, including land mobile radio service.

**SECTION 17.** Each ECD shall submit financial and program reports to the authority advisory board annually. Such reports shall demonstrate that the emergency communications district is spending funds in an efficient and effective manner consistent with the approved ECD NG911 Plan and using best practices in contracting for goods and services. Reports shall meet the minimum standards prescribed by the authority. The authority shall also prescribe procedures necessary to assure that the books and records are kept in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

**SECTION 18.** Each emergency communication district shall adopt an NG911 plan no later than December 31, 2030, and any district failing to adopt its plan by such date shall not expend any monies from the NG911 CMRS Grant Fund or ECD NG911 implementation fund.

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



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

(2) The board of supervisors of each county may, in its discretion, by order duly adopted and entered on its minutes, choose to create an emergency communications district in partnership with another board of supervisors to serve each of the 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 20.** 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.





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

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

813           (4) The board of commissioners shall have authority to  
814 employ such employees, experts and consultants as it may deem  
815 necessary to assist the board of commissioners in the discharge of  
816 its responsibilities to the extent that funds are made available.

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

822           (6) From and after the adoption of the State NG911 Plan, all  
823 emergency communications districts shall purchase, lease or  
824 lease-purchase any new equipment used to comply with \* \* \*  
825 requirements consistent with the State NG911 Plan from a products  
826 and equipment list maintained by the Mississippi Department of  
827 Information Technology Services; however, items not available from  
828 the list, or items which may be purchased at a lower price, shall  
829 be purchased in accordance with the Public Purchasing Law (Section  
830 31-7-13).



831       **SECTION 21.** Section 19-5-315, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
832 amended as follows:

833       19-5-315. \* \* \* ( \* \* \*1) The governing authorities of any  
834 municipality which has established an emergency communications  
835 district (ECD) under the provisions of a local and private act  
836 enacted prior to the effective date of Section 19-5-301 et seq.,  
837 may merge such district with \* \* \* another ECD, by order duly  
838 adopted and entered on the minutes of the governing authority and  
839 after the board of supervisors has duly adopted and entered on its  
840 minutes a similar order. After the \* \* \* ECD and the municipal  
841 districts have been merged, the local and private act for such  
842 municipality shall be of no force or effect.

843       ( \* \* \*2) Two (2) or more \* \* \* ECDS may, by order duly  
844 adopted by each governing authority and entered on their minutes,  
845 establish a single emergency communications district to be  
846 composed of all of the territory within such \* \* \* ECD provided  
847 that \* \* \* each emergency communications district \* \* \* has been  
848 established in accordance with Section 19-5-305. When two (2) or  
849 more \* \* \* ECDS have established a single \* \* \* ECD as provided  
850 under this subsection, the board of commissioners of the district  
851 shall \* \* \* be determined by the governing authority of each \* \* \*  
852 ECD.

853       (3) From and after October 1, 2027, a municipality may, in  
854 the form of a written agreement between the governing authorities  
855 of the municipality and the ECD it seeks to contract with, and



856 with approval from the Mississippi Emergency Communications  
857 Authority, join another contiguous or noncontiguous ECD. Such  
858 written agreement shall include that a fair share of funding shall  
859 be contributed by the municipality being served to the county  
860 operating the emergency communications district. Monies necessary  
861 for the fair share of funding shall be received according to  
862 Section 8(i) and (j) of this act and Section 16 of this act.

863 (4) An emergency communications district established under  
864 this section may serve the jurisdiction of more than one (1)  
865 public agency of the county or municipality or, through mutual  
866 written agreements.

867 (5) Changes to an ECD's area of service, whether by  
868 consolidation, modification or otherwise, shall be provided in  
869 writing through memoranda of understanding. All changes shall be  
870 submitted in standard GIS data file to the Mississippi Emergency  
871 Communications Authority within ten (10) days of date of change.

872 **SECTION 22.** Section 19-5-317, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
873 amended as follows:

874 19-5-317. (1) When there is not an emergency, no person  
875 shall make a \* \* \* call for service to \* \* \* a public safety  
876 answering point and knowingly or intentionally:

- 877 (a) Remain silent;
- 878 (b) Make abusive or harassing statements to an  
879 emergency telephone service employee;
- 880 (c) Report the existence of an emergency; or



881 (d) Falsely report a crime.

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

885 (3) Conviction of a first offense under this section is  
886 punishable by a fine not to exceed Five Thousand Dollars  
887 (\$5,000.00) or by imprisonment for a period of time not to exceed  
888 one (1) year, or by both such fine and imprisonment. Conviction  
889 of any subsequent offense under this section is punishable by a  
890 fine not to exceed Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) or by  
891 imprisonment for a period of time not to exceed three (3) years,  
892 or by both such fine and imprisonment.

893 \* \* \*

894 **SECTION 23.** Section 33-15-14, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
895 amended as follows:

896 33-15-14. (1) The agency is responsible for maintaining a  
897 comprehensive statewide program of emergency management. The  
898 agency is responsible for coordination with efforts of the federal  
899 government with other departments and agencies of state  
900 government, with county and municipal governments and school  
901 boards and with private agencies that have a role in emergency  
902 management.

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



905           (a) Work with the Governor, or his representative, in  
906 preparing a State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan of this  
907 state, which shall be integrated into and coordinated with the  
908 emergency management plans of the federal government and of other  
909 states to the fullest possible extent, and to coordinate the  
910 preparation of plans and programs for emergency management by the  
911 political subdivisions of the state, such local plans to be  
912 integrated into and coordinated with the emergency plan and  
913 program of this state. The plan must contain provisions to ensure  
914 that the state is prepared for emergencies and minor, major and  
915 catastrophic disasters, and the agency shall work closely with  
916 local governments and agencies and organizations with emergency  
917 management responsibilities in preparing and maintaining the plan.  
918 The State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan will be  
919 operations oriented and:

920           (i) Include an evacuation component that includes  
921 specific regional and interregional planning provisions and  
922 promotes intergovernmental coordination of evacuation activities.  
923 This component must, at a minimum: ensure coordination pertaining  
924 to evacuees crossing county lines; set forth procedures for  
925 directing people caught on evacuation routes to safe shelter; and  
926 establish policies and strategies for emergency medical  
927 evacuations.

928           (ii) Include a shelter component that includes  
929 specific regional and interregional planning provisions and



promotes coordination of shelter activities between the public, private and nonprofit sectors. This component must, at a minimum: contain strategies to ensure the availability of adequate public shelter space in each region of the state; establish strategies for refuge-of-last-resort programs; provide strategies to assist local emergency management efforts to ensure that adequate staffing plans exist for all shelters, including medical and security personnel; provide for a postdisaster communications system for public shelters; establish model shelter guidelines for 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.

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

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

(vi) Establish a system of communications and warning to ensure that the state's population and emergency



management agencies are warned of developing emergency situations and can communicate emergency response decisions.

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

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

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

(b) Adopt standards and requirements for county emergency management plans. The standards and requirements must ensure that county plans are coordinated and consistent with the State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. If a municipality





elects to establish an emergency management program, it must adopt a city emergency management plan that complies with all standards and requirements applicable to county emergency management plans.

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

(d) Review periodically political subdivision emergency management plans for consistency with the State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and standards and requirements adopted under this section.

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

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



1030                   (g) Anticipate trends and promote innovations that will  
1031 enhance the emergency management system.

1032                   (h) Prepare and distribute to appropriate state and  
1033 local officials catalogs of federal, state and private assistance  
1034 programs.

1035                   (i) Implement training programs to improve the ability  
1036 of state and local emergency management personnel to prepare and  
1037 implement emergency management plans and programs, and require all  
1038 local civil defense directors or emergency management directors to  
1039 complete such training as a condition to their authority to  
1040 continue service in their emergency management positions.

1041                   (j) Review periodically emergency operating procedures  
1042 of state agencies and recommend revisions as needed to ensure  
1043 consistency with the State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan  
1044 and program.

1045                   (k) Prepare, in advance whenever possible, such  
1046 executive orders, proclamations and rules for issuance by the  
1047 Governor as are necessary or appropriate for coping with  
1048 emergencies and disasters.

1049                   (l) Cooperate with the federal government and any  
1050 public or private agency or entity in achieving any purpose of  
1051 this article.

1052                   (m) Assist political subdivisions with the creation and  
1053 training of urban search and rescue teams and promote the



development and maintenance of a state urban search and rescue program.

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

(o) Require each county or municipality to designate an agent for working with the agency in the event of a natural disaster. The county or municipality may designate any person as agent who has completed training programs required of emergency management directors.

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

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

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

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



1079           (t) In accordance with Section 33-15-15, create,  
1080 implement, administer, promulgate, amend and rescind rules  
1081 regarding the development of the Mississippi Disaster Reservist  
1082 Program.

1083           (u) Unless otherwise instructed by the Governor,  
1084 sponsor and develop mutual aid plans and agreements between the  
1085 political subdivisions of the state and the Mississippi Band of  
1086 Choctaw Indians similar to the mutual aid arrangements with other  
1087 states referenced in Section 33-15-11(b)(10).

1088           (v) Serve as the statewide coordinator for Emergency  
1089 Communications, including 911, E911, NG911 and all other related  
1090 functions.

1091           (w) Administer, as necessary, eligible legacy CMRS  
1092 reimbursements of infrastructure costs using funds appropriated by  
1093 the Legislature for such purposes which are deposited into the  
1094 State NG911 Fund. Such reimbursements shall be for compliance  
1095 with legacy emergency communications services.

1096       **SECTION 24.** Section 19-5-303, Mississippi Code of 1972,  
1097 which provides definitions, is hereby repealed.

1098       **SECTION 25.** Section 19-5-311, Mississippi Code of 1972,  
1099 which provides for responding to emergency calls, is hereby  
1100 repealed.

1101       **SECTION 26.** Section 19-5-313, Mississippi Code of 1972,  
1102 which provides for emergency telephone services charges, shall  
1103 stand repealed on December 31, 2025.



1104           **SECTION 27.** Section 19-5-331, Mississippi Code of 1972,  
1105 which defines certain terms as used in the provisions providing  
1106 for enhanced wireless emergency telephone service, is hereby  
1107 repealed.

1108           **SECTION 28.** Section 19-5-333, Mississippi Code of 1972,  
1109 which creates the Commercial Mobile Radio Service Board, shall  
1110 stand repealed on December 31, 2025.

1111           **SECTION 29.** Section 19-5-335, Mississippi Code of 1972,  
1112 which provides for the collection of services charges by the  
1113 Commercial Mobile Radio Service Board and requires registration of  
1114 Commercial Mobile Radio Service providers, shall stand repealed on  
1115 December 31, 2025.

1116           **SECTION 30.** Section 19-5-337, Mississippi Code of 1972,  
1117 which provides for the confidentiality of proprietary information  
1118 submitted to the Commercial Mobile Radio Service Board, shall  
1119 stand repealed on December 31, 2025.

1120           **SECTION 31.** Section 19-5-339, Mississippi Code of 1972,  
1121 which provides for the requirement to provide enhanced 911  
1122 service, shall stand repealed on July 1, 2027.

1123           **SECTION 32.** Section 19-5-341, Mississippi Code of 1972,  
1124 which makes it an offense and provides criminal penalties for  
1125 using wireless emergency telephone service for personal use, is  
1126 hereby repealed.



1127           **SECTION 33.** Section 19-5-343, Mississippi Code of 1972,  
1128 which provides for the collection and remittance of prepaid  
1129 wireless E911 charges, shall stand repealed on December 31, 2025.  
1130           **SECTION 34.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
1131 and after July 1, 2025.

