

**PUBLIC SAFETY AMENDMENTS**

2015 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Wayne A. Harper**

House Sponsor: Brad L. Dee

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill amends provisions of the Utah Communications Authority Act.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- ▶ defines terms;
- ▶ authorizes the Utah Communications Authority Board to commission a performance audit and study of the state's 911 emergency response system within the public safety communications network, which study shall include:

- determining potential cost savings that may be achieved by the functional consolidation of public safety answering points; and

- creating a strategic plan for the state's 911 emergency response system;

- ▶ limits the use of expenditures from the Unified Statewide 911 Emergency Service Account during the study; and

- ▶ makes technical changes.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

AMENDS:



28 **63H-7-103**, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2014, Chapter 320

29 ENACTS:

30 **63H-7-206**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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32 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

33 Section 1. Section **63H-7-103** is amended to read:

34 **63H-7-103. Definitions.**

35 As used in this chapter:

36 (1) "Authority" means the Utah Communications Authority, an independent state  
37 agency created in Section **67H-7-201**.

38 (2) "Board" means the Utah Communications Authority Board created in Section  
39 **67H-7-203**.

40 (3) "Bonds" means bonds, notes, certificates, debentures, contracts, lease purchase  
41 agreements, or other evidences of indebtedness or borrowing issued or incurred by the  
42 authority pursuant to this chapter.

43 [~~(5)~~] (4) "FirstNet" means the First Responder Network Authority created by Congress  
44 in the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012.

45 [~~(6)~~] (5) "Lease" means any lease, lease purchase, sublease, operating, management, or  
46 similar agreement.

47 [~~(7)~~] (6) "Local entity" means a county, city, town, local district, special service  
48 district, or interlocal entity created under Title 11, Chapter 13, Interlocal Cooperation Act.

49 [~~(8)~~] (7) "Member" means a public agency which:

50 (a) adopts a membership resolution to be included within the authority; and

51 (b) submits an originally executed copy of an authorizing resolution to the authority's  
52 office.

53 [~~(9)~~] (8) "Member representative" means a person or that person's designee appointed  
54 by the governing body of each member.

55 [~~(10)~~] (9) "Public agency" means any political subdivision of the state, including cities,  
56 towns, counties, school districts, local districts, and special service districts, dispatched by a  
57 public safety answering point.

58 [~~(11)~~] (10) "Public safety answering point" or "PSAP" means an organization, entity, or

59 combination of entities [~~which~~] that have joined together to form a central answering point for  
60 the receipt, management, and dissemination to the proper responding agency, of emergency and  
61 nonemergency communications, including 911 communications, police, fire, emergency  
62 medical, transportation, parks, wildlife, corrections, and any other governmental  
63 communications.

64 [~~(4)~~] (11) "Public safety communications network" means:

65 (a) a regional or statewide public safety governmental communications network and  
66 related facilities, including real property, improvements, and equipment necessary for the  
67 acquisition, construction, and operation of the services and facilities; and

68 (b) 911 emergency services, including radio communications, microwave connectivity,  
69 FirstNet coordination, and computer aided dispatch system.

70 (12) "State" means the state of Utah.

71 (13) "State representative" means the six appointees of the governor or their designees  
72 and the Utah state treasurer or his designee.

73 Section 2. Section **63H-7-206** is enacted to read:

74 **63H-7-206. Functional consolidation of PSAPs study.**

75 (1) As used in this section:

76 (a) "Functional consolidation" means the process of ensuring that disparate public  
77 safety answering points and public safety dispatching centers work together in an efficient and  
78 effective way.

79 (b) "PSAP operator":

80 (i) means a public agency that operates a PSAP; and

81 (ii) does not include a school district or an airport authority that operates a PSAP.

82 (2) Beginning on or after July 1, 2015, the board shall commission and oversee a  
83 performance audit and study of the state's 911 emergency response system and related elements  
84 of the public safety communications network, which shall include:

85 (a) a review of statutory provisions and efforts of the Utah 911 Committee, the 911  
86 program manager, and the Office of the Statewide Interoperability Coordinator regarding the

87 assessment, planning, rules, technology review, and standardization of the state's 911

88 emergency response system and related elements of the public safety communications network;

89 (b) working with state and local stakeholders to determine potential cost savings and

90 increases in quality and efficiency that may be achieved by the functional consolidation of  
91 PSAPs and dispatch centers throughout the state, including recommendations regarding:  
92 (i) an efficient and effective public safety communications management structure to  
93 ensure that high quality emergency services are available to the state's citizens;  
94 (ii) common standard operating procedures that ensure the least amount of call  
95 processing time;  
96 (iii) efficient methods to transfer calls between PSAPs and from a PSAP to a first  
97 responder, regardless of jurisdiction;  
98 (iv) uniformity of equipment and software protocols to accomplish seamless  
99 functionality between computer aided dispatch systems;  
100 (v) interoperable telephonic and radio systems to ensure coordination between  
101 jurisdictions; and  
102 (vi) how unnecessary duplication of services may be reduced or eliminated;  
103 (c) the creation of a strategic plan for the state's 911 emergency response system and  
104 related elements of the public safety communications network, which plan may include:  
105 (i) how PSAPs may benefit from functional consolidation;  
106 (ii) requiring PSAPs within designated regions to accept calls and provide emergency  
107 communication services for first responders using interoperable equipment, software,  
108 protocols, and standard operating procedures; and  
109 (iii) requiring PSAPs, regardless of physical location, to operate on shared or hosted  
110 technology platforms and with common policies to eliminate the need to transfer calls between  
111 PSAPs;  
112 (d) describing and recommending potential solutions to the biggest impediments to  
113 functional consolidation of PSAPs; and  
114 (e) recommendations regarding necessary personnel and associated job duties within  
115 the Utah Communications Authority.  
116 (3) On or before July 1, 2016, the performance audit and study described in Subsection  
117 (2) shall be completed and submitted by the board in writing to the Law Enforcement and  
118 Criminal Justice Interim Committee and the Retirement and Independent Entities Interim  
119 Committee.  
120 (4) Money from the Unified Statewide 911 Emergency Service Account created in

121 Section 63H-7-304 may not be used to fund a new local PSAP or dispatching project before the  
122 completion of the performance audit and study described in Subsection (2), unless the board  
123 determines that an exigent circumstance requires the allocation.

124 (5) After July 1, 2016, money spent from the Unified Statewide 911 Emergency  
125 Service Account created in Section 63H-7-304 for projects, including state and local PSAP and  
126 dispatching projects, shall be made after consideration of the:

127 (a) recommendations of the performance audit and study described in Subsection (2);

128 and

129 (b) strategic plan for the state's network 911 emergency response system and related  
130 elements of the public safety communications network described in Subsection (2)(c).

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**Legislative Review Note**  
**as of 2-19-15 2:56 PM**

**Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel**