

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

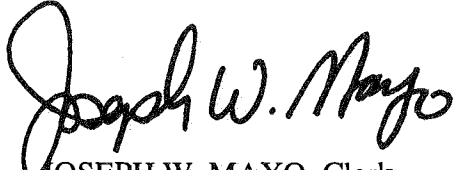
No. 976

H.P. 712

House of Representatives, February 11, 1997

An Act to Amend the Enhanced 9-1-1 Laws.

Submitted by the Department of Public Safety pursuant to Joint Rule 204.
Reference to the Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs suggested and ordered printed.


JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative KONTOS of Windham.
Cosponsored by Senator: BENOIT of Franklin.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

2
4 **Sec. 1. 25 MRSA §2925, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 1993, c. 566, §8, is further amended to read:

6 **1. Membership.** The E-9-1-1 Council is composed of 15 17
8 members; one appointed by the Public Utilities Commission; one
10 appointed by the Commissioner of Public Safety; and 13 15
12 appointed by the Governor, including one who is a municipal
14 official nominated by the statewide association of
16 municipalities, one county official nominated by a statewide
18 association of county commissioners, one who is a chief of a
20 municipal police department nominated by the statewide
22 association of chiefs of police, one who is the chief of a
24 municipal fire department nominated by the statewide association
26 of fire chiefs, one who is a county sheriff nominated by the
statewide association of sheriffs, one who represents small
telephone companies, one who represents the largest provider of
local exchange telephone services, one who represents cellular or
wireless service providers, one who represents a direct provider
of emergency medical services, one who is a dispatcher nominated
by the statewide association of dispatchers, one who is a member
of a volunteer fire department, one to represent the deaf and
hearing impaired and 3 to represent the public-at-large. Each
member may name a designee who may attend meetings of the council
and act on that member's behalf in council proceedings.

28 **Sec. 2. 25 MRSA §2928**, as amended by PL 1995, c. 672, §5, is
30 repealed.

32 **Sec. 3. 25 MRSA §§2929 to 2931** are enacted to read:

34 **§2929. Confidentiality of system information**

36 **1. E-9-1-1 database confidentiality.** All records that
38 contain the names, addresses or telephone numbers of persons
40 listed in E-9-1-1 databases controlled by the bureau are
confidential and are restricted for use within the E-9-1-1
42 system. The information contained in E-9-1-1 databases
controlled by the bureau may not be disseminated or utilized for
commercial purposes.

44 **2. Unlisted telephone numbers.** Public safety answering
46 point records containing customer information, described in Title
35-A, section 7501, subsection 1, that is omitted from a
48 telephone utility directory list at the request of a customer is
confidential. Notwithstanding that confidentiality, a telephone
50 company customer with an unlisted telephone number waives the
privacy afforded by an unlisted telephone number to the extent
that the name and address associated with the number may be
furnished to the E-9-1-1 system for processing a request for

2 E-9-1-1 services from that number and for the provision of
3 emergency services resulting from the request.

4 3. Limitation on dissemination of information. Reports,
5 records or audio recordings of calls received by a public safety
6 answering point that contain the name, telephone number or
7 address of the caller, or other information regarding a request
8 for emergency services, are confidential and may not be
9 disseminated by the public safety answering point, except to the
10 following:

12 A. Public or private safety agencies and emergency
13 responders for processing emergency calls and providing
14 emergency services;

16 B. A law enforcement officer or agency for the purpose of
17 investigation; or

18 C. Designees of the bureau director for the purpose of
19 system maintenance and quality control.

22 4. Penalty for disseminating information. Disseminating
23 confidential information in violation of this section is a Class
24 E crime.

26 §2930. Immunity from civil liability

28 1. Immunity. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a
29 public safety answering point, private safety agency, public
30 safety agency, private company or other E-9-1-1 provider and the
31 officers, directors, agents and employees of those entities are
32 immune from civil liability for negligent acts or omissions
33 causing property damage, bodily injury or death as a result of
34 developing, establishing, implementing, maintaining or operating
35 the E-9-1-1 system.

36 §2931. Misuse of E-9-1-1 system

38 1. Prohibited use. A person is guilty of misuse of the
39 E-9-1-1 system if, without reasonable cause, that person makes
40 repeated telephone calls to a public safety answering point by
41 dialing 9-1-1 to make nonemergency reports or inquires after
42 having been forbidden to do so by a public safety answering point
43 manager or administrator or a law enforcement officer.

44 2. Penalty. Violation of this section is a Class E crime.

48 **SUMMARY**

50 This bill amends the current laws governing the E-9-1-1
51 system as follows:

2 1. Increases the membership of the E-9-1-1 Council from 15
to 17 members by adding a county official and a representative of
4 the cellular or wireless service providers;

6 2. Defines the confidentiality of E-9-1-1 databases and
information received from callers by public safety answering
8 points;

10 3. Provides immunity to entities and personnel within the
E-9-1-1 system; and

12
14 4. Creates a prohibition against repeated dialing of the
emergency 9-1-1 number for nonemergency matters.