

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2000

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Legislative Document

No. 2389

S.P. 939

In Senate, January 12, 2000

**An Act to Facilitate the Implementation of the E-9-1-1 System.**

(EMERGENCY)

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator KONTOS of Cumberland.  
Cosponsored by Representatives: BERRY of Livermore, DAVIDSON of Brunswick.

2           **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not  
become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted  
as emergencies; and

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6           **Whereas,** the enhanced 9-1-1 system is currently being  
implemented in portions of the State; and

8           **Whereas,** upon implementation it is necessary that the Maine  
primary and official emergency telephone number is 9-1-1; and

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12           **Whereas,** 9-1-1 must be published and advertised uniformly to  
ensure its use and also regulated to limit its application to  
emergency telephone calls; and

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16           **Whereas,** upon implementation, public safety agencies require  
greater access to the E-9-1-1 system for internal administrative  
purposes;

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20           **Whereas,** the statutory provisions regarding the collection  
and remittance of the special statewide E-9-1-1 surcharge were  
repealed and must be reinstated retroactively; and

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24           **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts  
create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of  
Maine and require the following legislation as immediately  
necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and  
safety; now, therefore,

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

32           **Sec. 1.** 25 MRSA §2927, sub-§7-A, as amended by PL 1997, c.  
409, §1, is repealed.

34           **Sec. 2.** 25 MRSA §2929, sub-§4, ¶¶C and D, as enacted by PL  
1997, c. 291, §3, are amended to read:

36           C. To designees of the bureau director for the purpose of  
38           system maintenance and quality control; and

40           D. In accordance with an order issued on a finding of good  
42           cause by a court of competent jurisdiction; and

44           **Sec. 3.** 25 MRSA §2929, sub-§4, ¶E is enacted to read:

46           E. To a public safety agency for the purpose of  
investigating complaints, charges and accusations against  
the agency or its employees.

48           **Sec. 4.** 25 MRSA §2932 is enacted to read:

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2 **§2932. Designated emergency telephone number**

4 **1. Designated emergency telephone number.** The primary  
6 telephone number to be used in a telephone exchange to request  
8 emergency services following the activation of E-9-1-1 services  
for that exchange, including the number for telecommunications  
devices for communication for the deaf, hard-of-hearing and  
speech impaired, is 9-1-1.

10 **2. Publishing of 9-1-1.** Every publisher of a telephone  
12 number directory must include in a conspicuous portion of any  
14 directory that it publishes for use in an area of Maine 9-1-1 as  
the primary telephone number to request emergency services for  
16 the exchanges in which E-9-1-1 services have been activated. A  
publisher may wait until the next regular printing of a directory  
following activation of an exchange to comply with this  
18 requirement.

20 **3. Prohibition against using 9-1-1 for commercial**  
22 **purposes.** The number 9-1-1 may not be used for any other  
purpose, including but not limited to commercial advertising,  
24 other than as the primary emergency telephone number to request  
emergency services.

26 **4. Display of 9-1-1.** When displayed on emergency vehicles,  
signs and in other formats designed to advertise the number and  
28 its use to the public, 9-1-1 must be printed in plain block type  
numerals with a dash between each number and must be accompanied  
by the word "emergency."

30 **Sec. 5. 35-A MRSA §7501-A,** as enacted by PL 1991, c. 45, is  
32 amended to read:

34 **§7501-A. Emergency numbers in directories**

36 ~~Every telephone--company--shall~~ publisher of a telephone  
38 number directory must include in a conspicuous portion of any  
directory that it publishes ~~after--the--effective--date--of--this~~  
40 ~~section~~ the emergency numbers of the State Police and any  
sheriffs' departments that serve the directory area prior to the  
42 activation of E-9-1-1 services in the directory area. Subsequent  
to the activation of E-9-1-1 services for the entire directory  
44 area, the only published number for all emergency services must  
be 9-1-1 pursuant to Title 25, section 2932.

46 **Sec. 6. Retroactivity.** That section of this Act that repeals  
48 the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 25, section 2927, subsection  
7-A applies retroactively to September 1, 1999.

50 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the  
preamble, this Act takes effect when approved.

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## SUMMARY

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The bill does the following.

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1. It keeps the special statewide E-9-1-1 surcharge in place by retroactively repealing a provision that repealed the subsections of statute requiring the surcharge to be collected and remitted to the E-9-1-1 fund.

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2. It allows a public safety agency to listen to an audio recording of an E-9-1-1 telephone call for the purpose of investigating allegations of misconduct against the agency or its employees.

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3. It designates the numerals "9-1-1" as the primary telephone number to request emergency services following the activation of the E-9-1-1 services for a telephone exchange. The primary number for telecommunications devices for communication for the deaf, hard-of-hearing and speech impaired is "9-1-1."

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4. It prohibits the use of the numerals "9-1-1" for purposes, including commercial advertising, other than to request emergency services. It also requires 9-1-1 to be in block lettering when used to advertise the number and its use to the public.

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5. It requires telephone companies to publish 9-1-1 as the primary emergency telephone number for those exchanges in which E-9-1-1 services have been activated.

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This bill is an emergency because E-9-1-1 services will be activated in various regions across the State over an estimated 18-month period beginning in early 2000. The statutory changes are needed prior to the system coming on line.

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