

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

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Legislative Document

No. 1467

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H.P. 1098

House of Representatives, March 8, 2001

**An Act to Facilitate the Implementation of the Enhanced 9-1-1  
Emergency 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.

*Millicent M. MacFarland*

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Representative BERRY of Belmont.  
Cosponsored by Representatives: BELANGER of Caribou, BERRY of Livermore, GOOLEY  
of Farmington, MENDROS of Lewiston, QUINT of Portland, Speaker SAXL of Portland,  
Senators: CATHCART of Penobscot, DOUGLASS of Androscoggin.

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

4           **Whereas,** the Enhanced 9-1-1, or "E-9-1-1," system is  
6 currently being implemented in portions of the State; and

8           **Whereas,** upon implementation it is necessary that the  
State's primary and official emergency telephone number be 9-1-1;  
10 and

12           **Whereas,** the statutory provisions regarding the collection  
and remittance of the special statewide E-9-1-1 surcharge rate  
14 must show an increased rate to fund the system; and

16           **Whereas,** the E-9-1-1 surcharge is the only funding source  
for the E-9-1-1 budget, implementation, operation and  
18 maintenance; and

20           **Whereas,** public safety answering points must be available to  
answer a citizen's E-9-1-1 call for help; and

22           **Whereas,** through television programming and newspaper and  
24 magazine articles, the public's perception is that emergency  
medical dispatch is an integral component of the E-9-1-1 system;  
26 and

28           **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  
30 necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and  
safety; now, therefore,

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

34           **Sec. 1. 25 MRSA §2921, sub-§4-A** is enacted to read:

36           **4-A. Emergency medical dispatch.** "Emergency medical  
38 dispatch" means the reception and management of requests for  
emergency medical assistance and the delivery of prearrival  
40 telephone instructions following established protocols involving  
emergency medical care.

42           **Sec. 2. 25 MRSA §2926, sub-§2, ¶¶B, F, H and I,** as enacted by PL  
44 1993, c. 566, §9, are amended to read:

46           B. Development of minimum public safety answering point  
requirements including 24-hour operation; emergency backup  
48 power; secured communication areas; separate administrative  
phone lines for nonemergency calls; call recording and  
50 playback equipment; TDD equipment, as defined in Title 35-A,

2 section 8702, subsection 6; maximum call handling times; and  
3 minimum mandatory staff training requirements for E-9-1-1  
4 call answering and dispatching;

5 F. Procedures for cooperation and coordination with  
6 telephone utilities and municipalities for implementation  
7 and maintenance;

8 H. Estimates of the cost of establishing an operational  
9 E-9-1-1 system; and

10 I. Procedures for collecting and administering the  
11 necessary funds for E-9-1-1;

12 **Sec. 3. 25 MRSA §2926, sub-§2, ¶¶J and K** are enacted to read:

13 J. Standards and procedures for developing and maintaining  
14 the system databases; and

15 K. Standards and procedures to establish and deliver  
16 emergency medical dispatch, or EMD, as a component of the  
17 statewide E-9-1-1 system.

18 **Sec. 4. 25 MRSA §2926, sub-§§5 and 6** are enacted to read:

19 **5. Call answering coverage.** The bureau is authorized to  
20 provide and ensure call answering coverage, so that all E-9-1-1  
21 calls are answered in accordance with bureau standards.

22 **6. System databases.** The system databases must be the  
23 property of the bureau.

24 **Sec. 5. 25 MRSA §2927, sub-§1-B,** as enacted by PL 1999, c.  
25 651, §1 and affected by §4, is amended to read:

26 **1-B. Statewide E-9-1-1 surcharge.** The activities  
27 authorized under this chapter are funded through a special  
28 statewide E-9-1-1 surcharge levied on each residential and  
29 business telephone exchange line, including private branch  
30 exchange lines and Centrex lines, cellular or wireless  
31 telecommunications service subscribers and semipublic coin and  
32 public access lines. The statewide E-9-1-1 surcharge may not be  
33 imposed on more than 25 lines or numbers per customer billing  
34 account. The statewide E-9-1-1 surcharge is ~~32¢~~ 58¢ per month  
35 per line or number. The statewide E-9-1-1 surcharge must be  
36 billed on a monthly basis by each local exchange telephone  
37 utility or cellular or wireless telecommunications service  
38 provider and be shown separately as a statewide E-9-1-1 surcharge  
39 on the customer's bill.

2           **Sec. 6. 25 MRSA §2927, sub-§2-B**, as enacted by PL 1999, c.  
4           651, §1, is amended to read:

6           **2-B. Surcharge remittance.** Each local exchange telephone  
8           utility and cellular or wireless telecommunications service  
10           provider shall remit the statewide E-9-1-1 surcharge revenues  
12           collected from its customers pursuant to this section on a  
14           monthly basis and within one month of the month collected to the  
16           Treasurer of State for deposit in a separate account known as the  
18           E-9-1-1 fund. Service providers shall provide, on a form  
20           approved by the bureau, supporting data, including but not  
22           limited to the following:

24           A. The calculation used to arrive at the surcharge  
26           remittance amount;

28           B. The calculation used to arrive at the uncollectible  
30           amount of surcharge;

32           C. The total surcharge;

34           D. The month and year for which surcharge is remitted;

36           E. The legal name of company and telephone number and, if  
38           applicable, the parent company name, address and telephone  
40           number; and

42           F. The preparer's name and telephone number.

44           **Sec. 7. PL 1999, c. 651, §4** is repealed.

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

### SUMMARY

This bill does the following.

1. It increases the surcharge from 32¢ to 58¢ to fund the E-9-1-1 program.

2. It standardizes the surcharge remittance process for all telecommunications providers.

3. It clarifies that the Emergency Services Communication Bureau owns the E-9-1-1 databases.

2 4. It authorizes the bureau to coordinate with telephone  
companies and municipalities for maintenance of the system  
following implementation.

4  
6 5. It provides Emergency Medical Dispatch, or EMD, as an  
essential part of the E-9-1-1 service to the caller.

8 6. It repeals the payment process utilized by phone  
companies following the surcharge sunset period.

10  
12 7. It provides the bureau authority to ensure that E-9-1-1  
calls are answered by public safety answering points should  
14 circumstances require the bureau to act to provide public safety  
answering points coverage.