

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1828

S.P. 744

In Senate, April 27, 2023

An Act Regarding Enhanced 9-1-1 Public Safety Answering Points

(AFTER DEADLINE)

(EMERGENCY)

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

Reference to the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator LaFOUNTAIN of Kennebec.
Cosponsored by Representative HASENFUS of Readfield and
Senator: HICKMAN of Kennebec.

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

3 **Whereas,** an existing public safety answering point has indicated that as of July 1,
4 2023, it will no longer provide E-9-1-1 call answering to municipalities in Kennebec
5 County; and

6 **Whereas,** it is not sufficiently clear that the Public Utilities Commission has authority
7 to create a new public safety answering point; and

8 **Whereas,** it may be necessary to create as soon as possible a new public safety
9 answering point in order to ensure all people in the State have efficient and reliable access
10 to E-9-1-1 services; and

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

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

16 **Sec. 1. 25 MRSA §2923-B** is enacted to read:

17 **§2923-B. Notice of service discontinuation**

18 **1. Notice.** A public safety answering point shall provide the bureau with notice at least
19 one year prior to discontinuing service to a municipality, unless the bureau authorizes a
20 shorter period of time for notification. If appropriate, the bureau shall notify the department
21 of the notice of discontinuing service received by the bureau from a public safety answering
22 point.

23 **2. Penalty.** A violation of subsection 1 is a civil violation for which a fine of up to
24 \$500 may be adjudged.

25 **Sec. 2. 25 MRSA §2926, sub-§2-B** is enacted to read:

26 **2-B. Exceptions.** Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the bureau
27 may authorize the establishment of a public safety answering point on a determination that
28 a public safety answering point is necessary to ensure public safety and access to E-9-1-1
29 services.

30 **Sec. 3. Study; oversight of public safety answering points.** The Public Utilities
31 Commission, Emergency Services Communication Bureau shall conduct a study assessing
32 whether public safety answering points can be more efficiently managed to ensure stability
33 of the system. The study must include but is not limited to the following:

34 1. The use of incentives or subsidies provided from the E-9-1-1 surcharge set out in the
35 Maine Revised Statutes, Title 25, section 2927 that are tied to performance metrics for
36 public safety answering point services in order to stabilize the relationships between public
37 safety answering points and municipalities;

38 2. The current level of state oversight of public safety answering points and whether
39 this level is sufficient to ensure the efficient management of public safety answering points;

