

1 Sec. C.111 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 172, Sec. 8 is amended to read:

2 Sec. 8. MUNICIPAL ENERGY REVOLVING FUND; ~~FY 2023~~

3 ~~APPROPRIATION~~ TRANSFER; REPORT

4 (a) ~~In FY 2023~~, Upon receipt of the following federal funds and to the
5 extent permitted by federal law, the following amounts shall be transferred to
6 the Department of Buildings and General Services from the Department of
7 Public Service for the Municipal Energy Revolving Fund, as established in 29
8 V.S.A. § 168b:

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10 Sec. C.112 PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM;

11 DISPATCH; INVENTORY; DESIGN

12 (a) The General Assembly finds that protecting public safety and welfare is
13 an essential function of State government and it is in the public interest to
14 establish a statewide reliable, secure, and interoperable public safety
15 communications system, comprising integrated 911 call-taking and regional
16 dispatch systems, and to ensure that the system is equitably and sustainably
17 financed and universally accessible by all persons throughout the State.

18 (b) It is not the intent of the General Assembly to establish a public safety
19 communications system that disrupts or in any way jeopardizes the exceptional
20 dispatch services currently in place or the existing 911 system, but rather to
21 support, enhance, strengthen and build upon those efforts and initiatives.

1 (c) The transition to a public safety communications system as specified in
2 subsection (a) of this section shall be overseen and managed by the Enhanced
3 911 Board, in consultation with the Commissioner of Public Safety, the
4 Secretary of Digital Services, the Commissioner of Public Service, and
5 relevant State and local public safety and government stakeholders. In
6 addition, the Board is authorized to retain a project manager and one or more
7 additional consultants with relevant expertise in public safety communications
8 technology, design, and financing to assist with the requirements of this
9 section.

10 (d) The establishment of a statewide public safety communications system
11 shall occur in essentially three phases that include data collection and analysis,
12 design, and implementation. Certain aspects of each phase may occur
13 simultaneously as deemed appropriate by the Board.

14 (1) Data collection and analysis. On or before January 15, 2024, the
15 Board shall conduct a complete inventory and assessment of all aspects of
16 dispatch service currently provided in Vermont and, to the extent possible,
17 dispatch service currently provided outside Vermont for response agencies
18 located in Vermont, which shall include:

19 (A) an inventory of all existing dispatch infrastructure and
20 equipment, including facilities, hardware, software, applications, and land

1 mobile radio systems, referring to and incorporating any existing relevant data
2 collected by a State or municipal entity;

3 (B) the number of full-time and part-time personnel currently
4 performing dispatch service, taking into account personnel who have other
5 responsibilities in addition to providing dispatch service;

6 (C) the current total spending on dispatch service in Vermont, taking
7 into account all federal, State, and municipal appropriations and fees;

8 (D) in consultation with the Commissioner of Public Service and to
9 the extent feasible, identification of the communications dead zones in the
10 State, meaning those areas that lack the infrastructure to support public safety
11 land-mobile-radio communications or cellular voice and data service, or both,
12 and taking into consideration all cell towers that are part of the FirstNet
13 statewide public safety radio access network; cellular mapping efforts
14 conducted by the Department of Public Service; and any existing, relevant
15 mapping data collected by a dispatch center or other entity;

16 (E) with the assistance of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, a
17 needs assessment to determine where and to what extent there are gaps in
18 dispatch service or significant challenges to the delivery of dispatch service
19 and to identify those municipalities that are likely to be most affected by either
20 the curtailment of dispatch service from the two State-run public safety

1 answering points or from a new financing mechanism for the continuation of
2 such service;

3 (F) an assessment of the service provided by each dispatch center and
4 identification of particular challenges or vulnerabilities, if any, including with
5 regard to workforce, failover procedures, communications technology, costs,
6 and governance; and

7 (G) collection and assessment of any other information the Board
8 deems relevant.

9 (2) Design. On or before January 15, 2024, the Board shall develop
10 findings and recommendations related to draft elements of a preliminary
11 design for a public safety communications system, including identification of
12 an implementation timeline and any additional data and resources needed to
13 develop a final design on or before January 15, 2025. The final design shall
14 include:

15 (A) technical and operational standards and protocols that ensure an
16 interoperable and resilient system that incorporates computer-aided dispatch
17 systems and land mobile radios;

18 (B) technology life cycle standards to ensure system and database
19 upgrades are timely, sufficiently financed, and properly managed;

20 (C) system and database security and cybersecurity standards;

1 (D) continuity of operations standards and best practices that
2 encompass failover procedures and other system redundancies to ensure the
3 continuous performance of mission-critical operations;

4 (E) workforce training standards and other staffing best practices that
5 support the retention and well-being of dispatch personnel;

6 (F) a resource allocation plan that ensures dispatch service is
7 available in all regions of the State, including the establishment of new
8 dispatch centers or expanded capacity and capability of existing dispatch
9 centers, if deemed appropriate by the Board;

10 (G) a process for annually reviewing the budgets of dispatch centers;

11 (H) a recommended governance model to ensure effective State and
12 regional oversight, management, and continuous improvement of the system,
13 including identification of staffing or operational needs to support such
14 oversight and management of the system by the Board or by another State
15 agency, if deemed appropriate by the Board;

16 (I) cost estimates for implementing the system in Vermont, including
17 operational and capital costs;

18 (J) an overview of sustainable and equitable financing mechanisms,
19 taking into consideration:

20 (i) existing budgets for regional and local dispatch;

1 (ii) the population, grand list, and call volume of each
2 municipality;

3 (iii) existing and potential State funding streams;

4 (iv) available federal funding opportunities for public safety
5 agencies and emergency communications systems, including equipment,
6 network infrastructure, and services;

7 (v) financing models adopted in other jurisdictions for public
8 safety communications systems; and

9 (vi) any other standards or procedures deemed necessary or
10 appropriate by the Board.

11 (e) On or before January 15, 2024, the Board shall submit the findings and
12 recommendations required by subdivisions (d)(1) and (2) of this section in a
13 written report to the Senate Committees on Government Operations and on
14 Finance and the House Committees on Government Operations and Military
15 Affairs, on Ways and Means, and on Environment and Energy.

16 Sec. C.113 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. B.1100 is amended to read:

17 Sec. B.1100 FISCAL YEAR 2023 ONE-TIME GENERAL FUND

18 APPROPRIATIONS

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