

**Public Safety/Dispatch Decision Points for Finance**  
*Legislative Counsel - April 12, 2023*

**(1)** On passage, [person/entity], in consultation with (*or not*) \_\_\_\_\_, shall **inventory** all aspects of regional dispatch services currently provided in Vermont (facilities; equipment; personnel; technology; communications systems and networks<sup>1</sup>; operations; catchment areas; response agencies). The inventory may be completed by a consultant and \$\_\_\_\_\_ is appropriated for such purpose. The inventory shall include identification of municipalities that face the greatest challenges with respect to the provision of dispatch service, and those municipalities that are likely to be most affected by either the curtailment of dispatch services from the two State-run public safety answering points or from a new financing mechanism for the continuation of those services. The inventory shall be reported to the following legislative committees \_\_\_\_\_ on or before \_\_\_\_\_.

**(2)(A)** On passage, [person/entity], in consultation with (*or not*) \_\_\_\_\_, shall **design** a statewide public safety communications system, comprising an integrated 911 system and a dispatch system. The system shall incorporate standards and procedures to ensure it is reliable, secure, efficient, interoperable, and universally accessible by all persons throughout the State. The design shall recommend a **governance model** to ensure effective State and regional oversight, management, and continuous improvement of the system. The designer shall develop cost estimates for implementing such a system in Vermont, including operational and capital costs. The design may be developed by a consultant and \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is appropriated for such

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<sup>1</sup> Consider efforts undertaken and information obtained by the Department of Public Safety with \$9 million in federal Congressionally Directed Spending.

purpose. The design shall be submitted to the following legislative committees  
\_\_\_\_\_ on or before \_\_\_\_\_.

**(B)** *Stakeholder input options.*

**(i)** An advisory committee is established to provide advice and recommendations regarding the RFP for the system design, *if applicable*, and the system design itself. Members of that committee are: \_\_\_\_\_.

[and/or]

**(ii)** The designer/consultant shall develop a process for soliciting and receiving stakeholder input on the system design, including the holding of public hearings on preliminary design proposals and on a final design proposal (*frequency/location*).

**(3)** On passage, [Person/entity], in consultation with (*or not*) \_\_\_\_\_, shall analyze options and propose a model for sustainably and equitably **financing** a statewide public safety communications system that shall include consideration of:

- (A) existing budgets for regional dispatch;
- (B) existing and potential municipal, State, and federal funding streams;
- (C) the population and call volume of each municipality;
- (D) funding shortfalls for the 911 system under the VUSF;
- (E) stakeholder input through public hearings or other mechanisms.

The analysis may be performed by or with the assistance of a consultant hired for such purpose, for which \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is appropriated. The proposed financing model and relevant findings shall be submitted to the following legislative committees  
\_\_\_\_\_ on or before \_\_\_\_\_.

**(4) Funding** for the above-referenced inventory, design, and financing model shall come from the **\$11 million in State General Fund** dollars appropriated to the Department of Public Safety in fiscal year 2023. Any remaining unobligated funds shall be subject to disbursement by the General Assembly.

**(5)** Regarding the **\$9 million in federal Congressionally Directed Spending** appropriated to the Department of Public Safety to support Vermont's transition to a modernized, regional communications network, the Commissioner of Public Safety, in consultation with \_\_\_\_\_, shall \_\_\_\_\_, and shall report to \_\_\_\_\_ on or before \_\_\_\_\_.