

S.139 – Outline of Bill as Introduced

An Act Relating to the Modernization of Public Safety Communications in Vermont
 Senate Committee on Government Operations – Committee Bill
 March 23, 2023 – Legislative Counsel

Section	Page(s)	Subject
Sec. 1	1	Title – Vermont Public Safety Communications Modernization Act of 2023
Sec. 2	1-4	Findings and Intent <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 PSAPs (2 State; Lamoille County; Shelburne, St. Albans, Hartford police • 40 dispatch centers in VT; 6 outside VT • 100s of local, largely volunteer first responders • Existing inequities in service and financing • Intent – State level oversight of statewide public safety communications system
Sec. 3	4-25	Vermont Public Safety Communications Board – <i>effective on July 1, 2024</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expands the jurisdiction of the existing E-911 Board to include development, implementation, and oversight of a statewide public safety communications system comprising an integrated: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Emergency call system ○ Public safety dispatch system • Purpose (p.4) • Definitions (p.4); “Regional dispatch center” (p.7) • Board membership (expanded from 9 to 12 members) (p.9) • Rules (p.12) • Board powers (p.13) • 5-year dispatch plans (p.15) • Registry of response entities (p.15) • E-911 Fund (p.16) • Regional Dispatch Fund (p.18) • Municipal dispatch assessment, <i>beginning 2027</i> (p.19) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Formula (GA review of statewide base fee) ○ Board determines rate for unorganized towns and gores ○ May apply to new regional dispatch centers established on or after July 1, 2024, reflecting a regional base fee • Fund distribution to regional dispatch centers, <i>beginning 2027</i> (p.20) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Carve out for State dispatching to State agencies • Confidentiality; Limitation of Liability; Enforcement and Penalties (pp.21-25) • Interagency cooperation and assistance (p.25) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Shared information ○ Transfer or shared-use protocols for State-owned infrastructure and equipment

Sec. 4	26-34	<p>Public Safety Communications Modernization Process – <i>effective on passage</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oversight – initiated by E-911 Board; completed by PSC Board (p.26) • Public Safety Communications Transition Fund (p.26) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Any unexpended balance transferred to the Regional Dispatch Fund on July 1, 2026 (p.26) • Public Safety Communications Advisory Committee (p.26) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 17 members ○ Sunsets July 1, 2029 • Transition Process (p.29) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Data Collection (p.29) ○ Design (p.30) ○ Implementation – fully operational July 1, 2026 (p.32) • Interagency Cooperation • Annual Report (January 2024 – 2027) (p.32) • State employment contracts (p.34)
Sec. 5	34	<p>FY 2023 General Fund Appropriation Transfer (\$11M State General Funds)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unobligated funds transferred from Public Safety to Transition Fund • Includes amounts previously approved by the JFC
Sec. 6	34-35	<p>Grant Administration Redesignation (\$9M federal)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congressionally Directed Spending to support VT’s transition to a modernized, regional communications network
Sec. 7	35	<p>New Positions; Appropriation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creates 8 new permanent classified positions within E-911 Board • ED compensation review • FY 2024 General Fund appropriation of \$1 million
Secs. 8	35-36	<p>Statutory Conforming Revisions – <i>effective July 1, 2024</i></p>
Sec. 9	36	<p>Effective Dates – effective on passage, except Secs. 3 and 8 effective July 1, 2024</p>