

CHAPTER 909

H.B. No. 1655

An Act relating to the creation of an advisory commission to study the establishment of the 9-1-1 telephone number as the primary emergency telephone number in the state.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS. In this Act:

(1) "Advisory commission" means the Advisory Commission on State Emergency Communications.

(2) "9-1-1 service" means a telecommunications service that provides the user of the public telephone system the ability to reach a public safety answering point by dialing the digits 9-1-1.

(3) "Public agency" means the state government or an incorporated city or town, a county, or any other political subdivision that provides or has authority to provide fire-fighting, law enforcement, ambulance, medical, or other emergency services.

(4) "Public safety answering point" means a communications facility operated on a 24-hour basis that is assigned the responsibility to receive 9-1-1 calls and, as appropriate, to directly dispatch emergency response services.

SECTION 2. ADVISORY COMMISSION. (a) The Advisory Commission on State Emergency Communications is created. The advisory commission is composed of 14 members, six appointed by the governor, two appointed by the lieutenant governor, two appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives, and four ex officio members. The governor shall include in his appointees three representatives of different leading telecommunications service providers. The executive directors of the Texas Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, the Texas Department of Health, the Department of Public Safety, and the Criminal Justice Policy Council, or the designees of those directors, shall serve as the ex officio members. The executive director of the Texas Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations shall serve as the presiding officer.

(b) A vacancy in an appointed position on the advisory commission shall be filled by a successor appointed in the same manner as the member who leaves the commission.

(c) A majority of the members of the advisory commission constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business. The commission shall meet at Austin and at other places as fixed by the commission at the call of the presiding officer. The commission shall hold its first meeting not later than June 30, 1985.

(d) The staffs of the Texas Department of Health, the Department of Public Safety, and the Criminal Justice Policy Council shall provide administrative services to the advisory commission.

(e) The expenses of a public member of the advisory commission shall be paid by the state agency with which the member is affiliated. The expenses of a private sector member shall be paid on an equal basis from the contingent funds of both houses of the legislature.

SECTION 3. POWERS AND DUTIES OF ADVISORY COMMISSION. (a) The advisory commission shall investigate the provision of emergency services in this state to develop recommendations relating to the establishment of a 9-1-1 service. In conducting its investigation, the commission shall examine all aspects of the delivery of emergency services in this state, including:

- (1) the average time period between a request for emergency aid and a response by a public agency;
- (2) any delay in response time caused by a proliferation of emergency telephone numbers;
- (3) the necessity of coordination among various political subdivisions in providing emergency aid in multicounty metropolitan areas; and
- (4) the possibilities of cost reductions achieved through the use of a uniform statewide response system.

(b) The advisory commission shall identify all existing federal, state, local, and private funding sources available for the implementation of a 9-1-1 service. The advisory commission shall estimate the cost to local public agencies to plan, implement, and operate a 9-1-1 service.

SECTION 4. AGENCY COOPERATION. Each public agency shall cooperate with the advisory commission to the fullest extent possible. An agency shall provide the advisory commission with copies of any pertinent documents requested by the commission.

SECTION 5. REPORT TO 70TH LEGISLATURE. The advisory commission shall issue a written report for presentation to the 70th Legislature not later than the 30th day of the regular session of that legislature. The report shall state the findings and recommendations of the advisory commission.

SECTION 6. EXPIRATION. This Act expires, and the advisory commission is dissolved, effective May 31, 1987.

SECTION 7. EMERGENCY. The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended, and that this Act take effect and be in force from and after its passage, and it is so enacted.

Passed by the House on May 21, 1985, by the following vote: Yeas 136, Nays 7, 2 present, not voting; passed by the Senate on May 27, 1985, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved: June 15, 1985

Effective: Immediately