

(c) The General Assembly is concerned that avoidable delays in reaching appropriate emergency aid are occurring to the jeopardy of life and property.

(d) The General Assembly acknowledges that the three digit number, 911, is a nationally recognized and applied telephone number which may be used to summon emergency aid and to eliminate delays caused by lack of familiarity with emergency numbers and by understandable confusion in circumstances of crisis.

(e) It is the purpose of this subtitle to establish the three digit number, 911, as the primary emergency telephone number for the State of Maryland and to provide for the orderly installation, MAINTENANCE, AND OPERATION of 911 systems within the State.

(f) In this subtitle, the following words and terms have the meanings indicated:

(1) "County" means any of the 23 counties of Maryland and Baltimore City.

(2) "Comptroller" means the Comptroller of the State Treasury.

(3) "Board" means the Emergency Number Systems Board.

(4) "Secretary" means the Secretary of the State Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services.

(5) "911 system" means a telephone service which meets the planning guidelines established pursuant to Section 204H-3 of this subtitle, and which automatically connects a person dialing the digits 911 to an established public safety answering point. 911 system includes equipment for connecting and outswitching 911 calls within a telephone central office, trunking facilities from the central office to a public safety answering point, and equipment to connect 911 calls to the appropriate public safety agency.

(6) "Public safety answering point" means a communications facility operated on a 24 hour basis which first receives 911 calls from persons in a 911 service area and which may, as appropriate, directly dispatch public safety services or extend, transfer, or relay 911 calls to appropriate public safety agencies.

(7) "Public safety agency" means a functional division of a public agency which provides fire fighting, police, medical, or other emergency services or a private entity which provides such services on a voluntary basis.

(8) "Enhancement" means any addition to a 911 system such as automatic number identification, automatic location