



# The Proposed \$15 Billion NG9-1-1 Legislation: Explaining the Opportunity and Dispelling Myths

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# Background on the Next Generation 9-1-1 Legislation

- Similar to the NG9-1-1 Act of 2019, which was developed by a group of public safety organizations. Key provisions:
  - Significant funding to deploy NG9-1-1.
  - Preserving state/local control
  - Creating modern definitions of important terms such as NG9-1-1, interoperability, and Emergency Communications Center.
  - Requiring expenditures to be for solutions that use commonly accepted standards like those used for major commercial technologies and ANSI standards.

# Background on the Next Generation 9-1-1 Legislation

- In early 2020, a larger group formed to develop recommendations for enhancing the 2019 language: the Public Safety Next Generation 9-1-1 Coalition <https://ng-911coalition.org/>.
  - Consists of national public safety associations representing law enforcement, fire, EMS, and 9-1-1 professionals.
- Key enhancements:
  - Increase funding from \$12B to \$15B.
  - Additional support for training and cybersecurity.
  - Establish a Public Safety Advisory Board.
- Retains definitions that ensure a comprehensive vision for NG9-1-1, effective standards, and true interoperability.
- Continues to preserve state/local control for 9-1-1.

# Preserve and Build Upon Existing Investments in NG9-1-1

- Prior investments will not be stranded.
- Grant funding would be used to support new deployments and add to prior NG9-1-1 investments.
  - Ex - deploy ESInets, upgrade ESInets to support multimedia and interoperability, etc.
- Legacy systems - the bill ensures that grant funds are expended towards modernizing legacy elements in order to meet the comprehensive, end-to-end definition of “NG9-1-1,” make them fully “interoperable.”
- Every state can benefit, regardless of NG9-1-1 progress.

# Strong Interoperability Requirements

- The bill language will not undermine interoperability.
- The bill defines interoperability to mean the ability to process and share any type of data with any ECCs and emergency response providers “without the need for proprietary interfaces and regardless of jurisdiction, equipment, device, software, service provider, or other relevant factors.”
- Permitting grant funds to be used for proprietary interfaces would weaken the interoperability requirements.
- Grant funding will enable ECCs to modernize/replace legacy elements in order to meet the comprehensive, end-to-end definition of NG9-1-1.

## Standards

- NIST is not being tasked with creating NG9-1-1 standards.
- The bill’s definition of “commonly acceptable standards” is appropriately flexible. It includes but is not limited to:
  - Commercial standards developed by major organizations such as 3GPP and IETF.
  - ANSI-approved standards (ensuring adherence to certain “essential requirements”).
- i3 will be directly permitted by the plain language of the bill once the ANSI process is finished (expected soon).
- We cannot weaken the standards language by allowing grant funds to be used on solutions that bypass the trusted processes for commercial and ANSI-approved standards that this definition guarantees.

# Reliability

- The reliability requirements in the bill serve as a complement to the FCC's reliability requirements for 9-1-1 service providers.
  - The FCC's rules are regulatory backstop and serve an entirely different purpose than what is expected with the grant program.
- The bill requires states to develop plans for NG9-1-1 grants that include several factors, including reliability.
  - For example, promote reliability that ensure no single point of failure.

# Cybersecurity

- The bill does not create a nationwide SOC that all 9-1-1 traffic has to flow through.
  - The national-level SOC is a *resource* for state and local agencies to use.
  - The vision is for the SOC provision to support deployments of emergency communications cybersecurity centers, as described in the FCC’s TFOPA report.
  - No one wants to create a federalized system that requires all 9-1-1 traffic to flow through a federally-controlled choke-point and then back out to ECCs.
- The bill clearly permits the use of grant funds for cybersecurity measures.
  - Ex - state plans submitted as part of grant applications must include “the use of effective cybersecurity measures.”



## Public Safety Advisory Board

- The Public Safety Advisory Board will not delay grant administration.
- The Board is tasked only with making recommendations to the National 9-1-1 Office and remains in place only during the period of the grant program.
  - Clear deadlines for delivery of recommendations.
- Board members must have relevant expertise.



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Take Action to support the NG9-1-1  
Legislation

<https://www.apcointl.org/government-relations/take-action/>

Read the NG9-1-1 legislation:  
Go to the Coalition website - <https://ng-911coalition.org/> - click “About the Coalition” → LIFT America Act