

DRAFT LEGISLATION

As Required by [Resolves 2021, chapter 162](#)

Date: December 16, 2022

Title: An Act To Require Dispatch Protocols for Emergency Mental Health Assistance

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 25 MRSA § 2927, sub-§3-E is enacted to read:

3-E. Support of a position to coordinate emergency medical dispatch services.
Revenues in the E911 fund may be used to fund a legislatively authorized position relating to the coordination and oversight of emergency medical dispatch services provided by Maine Emergency Medical Services.

Sec. 2. 25 MRSA § 2929, sub-§2, ¶A is amended to read:

A. A public safety answering point may disclose confidential information to public or private safety agencies, mental health service providers and emergency responders for purposes of processing emergency calls and providing emergency and mental health services;

Sec. 3. 25 MRSA § 2929, sub-§2, ¶D is amended to read:

D. The bureau director may disclose confidential information to public safety answering points, public or private safety agencies, mental health service providers, emergency responders or others within the E-9-1-1 system to the extent necessary to implement and manage the E-9-1-1 system.

Sec. 4. 32 MRSA § 83, sub-§9-A is enacted to read:

9-A. Emergency mental health assistance. “Emergency mental health assistance” means assistance offered to individuals experiencing mental health crises, behavioral health crises, crises relating to substance use disorder or other crises for which fire, emergency medical or law enforcement agency services are determined not to be required.

Sec. 5. 32 MRSA § 83, sub-§13-B is enacted to read:

13-B. Entities of the Board. “Entities of the Board” means boards, subcommittees, advisory committees, committees, and ad-hoc committees of the Board.

Sec. 6. 32 MRSA § 85-A, sub-§1, ¶C, sub-¶3 is amended to read:

(3) Management of requests for emergency medical or emergency mental health assistance; and

Sec. 7. 32 MRSA § 85-A, sub-§2-A is amended to read:

2-A. Requirement to provide emergency medical dispatch services. A public safety answering point or other licensed emergency medical dispatch center must provide emergency medical dispatch services on all medical and emergency mental health assistance 9-1-1 calls directly or by transferring the call to another licensed emergency medical dispatch center.

Sec. 8. 32 MRSA § 88, sub-§2, ¶M is enacted to read:

M. The Board may establish subcommittees, advisory committees, committees, and ad-hoc committees of the Board. These entities of the Board, including related Boards, may use video conferencing and other technologies to conduct its business but is not exempt from the requirements of Title 1, chapter 13, subchapter 1. Members of the entities of the board or its staff may participate in in a meeting of the entity via video conferencing, conference telephone, or similar communications equipment by means of which all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other, and participation in a meeting pursuant to this subsection constitutes presence in person at such meeting.

Sec. 9. Stakeholder group. In coordination with the Maine Emergency Medical Services Bureau within the Department of Public Safety, the Public Utilities Commission shall convene a stakeholder group to ensure proper communication is maintained while emergency mental health dispatch protocols are being implemented across the State. The stakeholder group shall address any issues that arise as emergency mental health dispatch protocols are being implemented and improve any policies or procedures that have been developed to address the screening and transferring of calls for emergency mental health services.

1. The stakeholder group established under this section must include, but is not limited to, the following stakeholders:

A. The director of the Emergency Services Communication Bureau within the Public Utilities Commission or the director's designee;

B. The director of the Office of Behavioral Health within the Department of Health and Human Services or the director's designee;

C. The Director of Maine Emergency Medical Services within the Department of Public Safety or the director's designee;

D. One member representing law enforcement;

E. One member who provides emergency medical services;

F. One member from a municipal public safety answering point;

G. One member from a county public safety answering point;

H. One member from a state public safety answering point;

I. One member from a dispatch-only center;

- J. One member who provides mental health crisis services; and
- K. One member who provides community mental health services.

SUMMARY

This bill amends the definition of “emergency medical dispatch services” to include emergency mental health assistance. It makes necessary changes to allow a public safety answering point to disclose confidential information to mental health service providers for the purpose of processing emergency calls and providing mental health services and provides that same authorization the director of the Public Utilities Commission’s Emergency Services Communication Bureau in order to implement and manage the E-9-1-1 system.

It establishes a stakeholder group, convened by the commission, to address any issues that arise as emergency mental health dispatch protocols are being implemented and improve any policies or procedures that have been developed to address the screening and transferring of calls for emergency mental health services.

It allows revenues in the E911 fund to be used to fund a position relating to the coordination and oversight of emergency medical dispatch services at the Maine Emergency Medical Services.

This bill also defines “entities of the Board” to include boards, subcommittees, advisory committees, committees and ad-hoc committees of the Emergency Medical Services' Board and allows the Board to establish any such entity. Lastly, it allows the use of video conferencing and other technologies to be used at the meeting of these entities.