

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To further deployment of Next Generation 9–1–1 services to enhance and upgrade the Nation’s 9–1–1 systems, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. NELSON (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To further deployment of Next Generation 9–1–1 services to enhance and upgrade the Nation’s 9–1–1 systems, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Next Generation 9–
5 1–1 Act of 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

8 (1) The Nation’s 9–1–1 systems, while a model
9 for the entire world, lack the advanced functionality,

1 interoperability, and capabilities that come with the
2 adoption of new, digital communications tech-
3 nologies.

4 (2) Communications technologies currently
5 available to the public, including first responders
6 and other public safety personnel, have substantially
7 outpaced the legacy communications technologies
8 still used by most public safety answering points in
9 the Nation's 9-1-1 systems.

10 (3) This lack of modern technology, when cou-
11 pled with other challenges, is impacting the ability of
12 the Nation's 9-1-1 systems to efficiently and effec-
13 tively provide responses to emergencies.

14 (4) Modernizing the Nation's 9-1-1 systems to
15 incorporate the new and evolving capabilities of
16 broadband voice and data communications is essen-
17 tial for the safety and security of the public, includ-
18 ing first responders and other public safety per-
19 sonnel.

20 (5) Efforts to modernize the Nation's 9-1-1
21 systems to date, while laudable and important, have
22 been limited due to a lack of funding and incon-
23 sistent or unclear policies related to the governance,
24 deployment, and operations of Next Generation 9-1-
25 1 services.

1 (6) A nationwide strategy for Next Generation
2 9–1–1 services has become essential to help guide
3 the transition and create a common framework for
4 implementation of Next Generation 9–1–1 services
5 while preserving State, regional, and local control
6 over the governance and technology choices of the
7 Nation’s 9–1–1 systems.

8 (7) Accelerated implementation of Next Genera-
9 tion 9–1–1 services will—

10 (A) increase compatibility with emerging
11 communications trends;

12 (B) enhance the flexibility, reliability, and
13 survivability of the Nation’s 9–1–1 systems dur-
14 ing major incidents;

15 (C) improve emergency response for the
16 public, including first responders and other
17 public safety personnel;

18 (D) promote the functional interconnection
19 of the Nation’s 9–1–1 systems with the wireless
20 nationwide public safety broadband network
21 being deployed by the First Responder Network
22 Authority; and

23 (E) increase the cost effectiveness of oper-
24 ating the Nation’s 9–1–1 systems.

1 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

2 It is the sense of Congress that—

3 (1) the Nation’s 9–1–1 professionals perform
4 important and lifesaving work every day, and need
5 the tools and communications technologies to per-
6 form the work effectively in a world with new, digital
7 communications technologies;

8 (2) the transition from the legacy communica-
9 tions technologies used in the Nation’s 9–1–1 sys-
10 tems to Next Generation 9–1–1 services is a na-
11 tional priority and a national imperative;

12 (3) the Nation should complete the transition
13 described in paragraph (2) as soon as practicable,
14 with the goal of having full implementation of Next
15 Generation 9–1–1 services not later than 10 years
16 after the date of enactment of this Act;

17 (4) the Nation should develop a framework that
18 facilitates cooperation among Federal, State, and
19 local officials on deployment of Next Generation 9–
20 1–1 services in order to meet that goal; and

21 (5) 9–1–1 authorities and the public safety an-
22 swering points should have sufficient resources to
23 implement Next Generation 9–1–1 services, includ-
24 ing resources to support associated geographic infor-
25 mation systems (commonly known as “GIS”),
26 cybersecurity measures, and the necessary training

1 and workforce to manage these advanced commu-
2 nications capabilities.

3 **SEC. 4. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

4 It is the policy of the United States that—

5 (1) Next Generation 9–1–1 services should be
6 technologically and competitively neutral;

7 (2) Next Generation 9–1–1 services should have
8 seamless interoperability, including with respect to
9 the transferability of information among public safe-
10 ty answering points;

11 (3) the design and implementation of Next Gen-
12 eration 9–1–1 services should conform to accredited,
13 non-proprietary, consensus-based standards;

14 (4) the governance and control of the Nation’s
15 9–1–1 systems, including Next Generation 9–1–1
16 services, should remain at the State, regional, and
17 local level; and

18 (5) the American public should receive informa-
19 tion on how to best utilize Next Generation 9–1–1
20 services and on the capabilities and usefulness of
21 those services.

22 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

23 In this Act:

1 (1) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The term “Assist-
2 ant Secretary” means the Assistant Secretary of
3 Commerce for Communications and Information.

4 (2) BOARD.—The term “Board” means the Ad-
5 visory Board for Next Generation 9–1–1 Interoper-
6 ability established under section 7 of this Act.

7 (3) FIRST RESPONDER NETWORK AUTHOR-
8 ITY.—The term “First Responder Network Author-
9 ity” has the meaning given the term in section 6001
10 of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act
11 of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1401).

12 (4) NATIONWIDE PUBLIC SAFETY BROADBAND
13 NETWORK.—The term “nationwide public safety
14 broadband network” has the meaning given the term
15 in section 6001 of the Middle Class Tax Relief and
16 Job Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1401).

17 (5) NEXT GENERATION 9–1–1 SERVICES.—The
18 term “Next Generation 9–1–1 services” has the
19 meaning given the term in section 158 of the Na-
20 tional Telecommunications and Information Admin-
21 istration Organization Act (47 U.S.C. 942), as
22 amended pursuant to this Act.

23 (6) OFFICE.—The term “Office” means the 9–
24 1–1 Implementation Coordination Office established
25 under section 158 of the National Telecommuni-

1 cations and Information Administration Organiza-
2 tion Act (47 U.S.C. 942).

3 (7) PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINT.—The
4 term “public safety answering point” has the mean-
5 ing given the term in section 222 of the Communica-
6 tions Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 222).

7 (8) SEAMLESS INTEROPERABILITY.—The term
8 “seamless interoperability” means that all networks,
9 services, and equipment are interoperable and capa-
10 ble of seamlessly exchanging and processing data,
11 including interoperability among and between—

12 (A) public service answering points;

13 (B) emergency services internet protocol
14 networks;

15 (C) State, regions, localities, and other ju-
16 risdictions;

17 (D) originating communications networks,
18 including wireline telecommunications networks,
19 wireless telecommunications networks, internet
20 service providers, and voice over internet pro-
21 tocol service networks; and

22 (E) the nationwide public safety broadband
23 network.

1 **SEC. 6. 9-1-1 IMPLEMENTATION COORDINATION OFFICE.**

2 (a) **ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES.**—In addition to
3 the responsibilities assigned to the Office under section
4 158 of the National Telecommunications and Information
5 Administration Organization Act (47 U.S.C. 942), the Of-
6 fice shall—

7 (1) create a clearinghouse of information that
8 contains resources and references for both technical
9 and nontechnical aspects of development and deploy-
10 ment of Next Generation 9-1-1 services for Federal,
11 State, regional, and local entities to assist with the
12 development and deployment of such services;

13 (2) provide guidance to Federal, State, regional,
14 and local entities with the development and deploy-
15 ment of Next Generation 9-1-1 services, including
16 with respect to—

17 (A) model governance structures for Next
18 Generation 9-1-1 services;

19 (B) network deployment models for seam-
20 less interoperability of Next Generation 9-1-1
21 services; and

22 (C) sustainable funding models for Next
23 Generation 9-1-1 services;

24 (3) help Federal, State, regional, and local 9-
25 1-1 entities coordinate acquisitions and procure-
26 ments related to the deployment of Next Generation

1 9–1–1 services, including the development of model
2 requests for proposals and related documents;

3 (4) work with the General Services Administra-
4 tion to determine the feasibility of allowing State,
5 regional, and local entities to take advantage of any
6 relevant General Services Administration blanket
7 purchase agreements for acquisition of equipment
8 related to Next Generation 9–1–1 services; and

9 (5) work with all relevant Federal departments
10 and agencies that operate public safety answering
11 points to promote implementation of Next Genera-
12 tion 9–1–1 services and effective seamless interoper-
13 ability with other 9–1–1 systems, including Next
14 Generation 9–1–1 services operated by Federal,
15 State, regional, and local entities.

16 (b) COORDINATION.—The Office shall work with all
17 relevant Federal departments and agencies, including the
18 Federal Communications Commission, the National Insti-
19 tute of Standards and Technology, the National Highway
20 Traffic Safety Administration, the First Responder Net-
21 work Authority, and the Department of Homeland Secu-
22 rity, to coordinate Federal Government activities related
23 to the development and deployment of Next Generation
24 9–1–1 services at the Federal, State, regional, and local
25 level.

1 (c) ANNUAL REPORTS.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning not later than 2
3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and
4 annually thereafter, the Office shall prepare a com-
5 prehensive report on the status of the implementa-
6 tion of Next Generation 9–1–1 services by Federal,
7 State, regional, and local entities.

8 (2) PUBLICATION.—Each report under para-
9 graph (1) shall be published online and submitted to
10 the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Trans-
11 portation of the Senate and the Committee on En-
12 ergy and Commerce of the House of Representa-
13 tives.

14 (3) COMBINATION OF EXISTING REPORTS.—To
15 the extent that the Office is required by law to issue
16 other reports, such reports may be combined with a
17 report under paragraph (1).

18 (4) SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION.—The Office
19 may require, as part of a grant issued by the Office
20 under this Act or any other Act, that a grant recipi-
21 ent provide such information as the Office considers
22 necessary to prepare a report under paragraph (1).

23 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
24 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
25 such sums as may be necessary.

1 (e) REPEAL OF SUNSET.—Section 158(d) of the Na-
2 tional Telecommunications and Information Administra-
3 tion Organization Act (47 U.S.C. 942(d)) is amended—

4 (1) by striking “(1) IN GENERAL.—” and in-
5 denting appropriately; and

6 (2) by striking paragraph (2).

7 **SEC. 7. ADVISORY BOARD FOR NEXT GENERATION 9-1-1**

8 **INTEROPERABILITY.**

9 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within
10 the Office the “Advisory Board for Next Generation 9-
11 1-1 Interoperability” to recommend updates to the defini-
12 tion of Next Generation 9-1-1 services under section 8.

13 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—

14 (1) VOTING MEMBERS.—

15 (A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-
16 graphs (B) and (C), not later than 30 days
17 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-
18 retary of Commerce, in coordination with the
19 Secretary of Transportation, shall appoint 17
20 voting members to the Board.

21 (B) APPOINTMENTS.—In making appoint-
22 ments under subparagraph (A), the Secretary
23 shall appoint—

24 (i) 5 members who represent 9-1-1
25 professionals;

1 (ii) 4 members who represent compa-
2 nies offering services that originate com-
3 munications to 9–1–1 systems, including
4 wireline telecommunications providers,
5 wireless telecommunications providers,
6 internet service providers, and voice over
7 internet protocol service providers;

8 (iii) 2 members who represent manu-
9 facturers and vendors;

10 (iv) 2 members who represent compa-
11 nies with expertise in information tech-
12 nology, networking, and application devel-
13 opment, including consumer-focused tech-
14 nologies and services; and

15 (v) 4 members who represent State,
16 regional, or local 9–1–1 entities and who
17 reflect geographic and population density
18 differences across the United States.

19 (C) REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS.—All vot-
20 ing members shall have—

21 (i) specific expertise and experience
22 related to Next Generation 9–1–1 systems;
23 and

24 (ii) such other specific expertise as the
25 Secretary considers necessary, such as

1 technical expertise, public safety commu-
2 nications expertise, or commercial network
3 experience.

4 (2) NON-VOTING MEMBERS.—The Assistant
5 Secretary and the Administrator of the National
6 Highway Traffic Safety Administration shall each
7 have the authority to appoint 1 non-voting member
8 to the Board.

9 (3) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT.—

10 (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
11 subparagraph (B), each member of the Board
12 shall be appointed for the life of the Board.

13 (B) REMOVAL FOR CAUSE.—A member of
14 the Board may be removed for cause upon the
15 determination of the Office.

16 (4) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the membership
17 of the Board—

18 (A) shall not affect the powers of the
19 Board; and

20 (B) shall be filled in the same manner as
21 the original appointment.

22 (5) CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON.—
23 The Board shall select a chairperson and vice chair-
24 person from among the members of the Board.

1 (6) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of
2 the Board shall constitute a quorum.

3 (7) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—The members of the
4 Board shall be allowed travel expenses, including per
5 diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for
6 employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter
7 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from
8 their homes or regular places of business in the per-
9 formance of services for the Board.

10 (c) OFFICE PARTICIPATION.—The Office may name
11 1 employee of the Office to serve as its liaison to the
12 Board and to assist the Board as needed in carrying out
13 its responsibilities under this section.

14 (d) NONAPPLICATION OF CERTAIN LAWS.—The fol-
15 lowing law, including regulations, shall not apply to the
16 operations of the Board:

17 (1) Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C.
18 App.).

19 (2) Chapter 5 and chapter 7 of title 5, United
20 States Code (commonly known as the “Administra-
21 tive Procedure Act”).

22 (3) Chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code
23 (commonly known as the “Paperwork Reduction
24 Act”).

1 (4) Federal Acquisition Regulations (48 C.F.R.
2 ch. 1).

3 (e) TERMINATION.—The Board shall terminate on
4 the date that is 15 days after the date the Office approves
5 the recommendations under section 8.

6 **SEC. 8. REVISED DEFINITION OF NEXT GENERATION 9-1-1**
7 **SERVICES.**

8 (a) RECOMMENDED UPDATES TO DEFINITION OF
9 NEXT GENERATION 9-1-1 SERVICES.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
11 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Board
12 shall—

13 (A) review the definition of the term “Next
14 Generation 9-1-1 services” in section 158 of
15 the National Telecommunications and Informa-
16 tion Administration Organization Act (47
17 U.S.C. 942);

18 (B) subject to paragraph (2), recommend
19 such updates to that definition as the Board
20 considers necessary; and

21 (C) submit to the Office the recommenda-
22 tions under subparagraph (B).

23 (2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In recommending up-
24 dates to the definition described in paragraph (1),
25 the Board shall consider—

- 1 (A) the need for the definition to—
- 2 (i) cover systems based on various
- 3 internet protocols, including Transmission
- 4 Control Protocol/Internet Protocol (or any
- 5 corresponding similar communication lan-
- 6 guage or protocol of the internet);
- 7 (ii) include support for all forms of
- 8 emergency communications technologies;
- 9 (iii) ensure seamless interoperability;
- 10 (iv) incorporate the need to provide a
- 11 secure environment for emergency commu-
- 12 nications, including relevant cybersecurity
- 13 measures; and
- 14 (v) incorporate the need to include
- 15 support for geographic information sys-
- 16 tems; and
- 17 (B) such other issues as the Board con-
- 18 siders relevant to the definition.

19 (b) APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDATIONS.—

- 20 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),
- 21 not later than 45 days after the date the Board sub-
- 22 mits the recommendations under subsection (a)(1),
- 23 the Office shall approve the recommendations, with
- 24 any revisions it considers necessary, and transmit
- 25 the recommendations to the Assistant Secretary and

1 the Administrator of the National Highway Traffic
2 Safety Administration.

3 (2) PUBLIC COMMENT.—

4 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Office shall pro-
5 vide the public with notice and an opportunity
6 to comment on the recommendations developed
7 by the Board under this section prior to their
8 approval.

9 (B) FURTHER BOARD CONSIDERATION.—

10 After such public comment period has closed,
11 the Office may refer questions raised by those
12 comments to the Board for further consider-
13 ation, including amendment of the rec-
14 ommendations submitted by the Board.

15 (c) REVISION OF DEFINITION.—The Assistant Sec-
16 retary and the Administrator of the National Highway
17 Traffic Safety Administration shall revise the definition
18 of the term “Next Generation 9–1–1 services” in section
19 158 of the National Telecommunications and Information
20 Administration Organization Act (47 U.S.C. 942), based
21 on the approved recommendations under subsection (b) of
22 this section, as part of the rulemaking under section 9(e)
23 of this Act.

24 (d) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 158(e)(5) of the Na-
2 tional Telecommunications and Information Admin-
3 istration Organization Act (47 U.S.C. 942(e)(5)) is
4 amended to read as follows:

5 “(5) NEXT GENERATION 9–1–1 SERVICES.—The
6 term ‘Next Generation 9–1–1 services’ has the
7 meaning given the term by the Assistant Secretary
8 and the Administrator of the National Highway
9 Traffic Safety Administration in the final rule pub-
10 lished under section 8(c) of the Next Generation 9–
11 1–1 Act of 2017.”.

12 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment under
13 paragraph (1) of this subsection shall take effect on
14 the date that a final rule is published under sub-
15 section (c).

16 **SEC. 9. NEXT GENERATION 9–1–1 GRANT PROGRAM.**

17 (a) GRANT REQUIREMENTS.—

18 (1) SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT.—Section
19 158(b)(3)(A) of the National Telecommunications
20 and Information Administration Organization Act
21 (47 U.S.C. 942(b)(3)(A)) is amended by amending
22 clause (ii) to read as follows:

23 “(ii) has designated a single officer or
24 governance body to serve as the State
25 point of contact to coordinate the imple-

1 mentation of Next Generation 9–1–1 serv-
2 ices for that State;”.

3 (2) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—Section
4 158(b)(3)(A) of the National Telecommunications
5 and Information Administration Organization Act
6 (47 U.S.C. 942(b)(3)(A)) is amended—

7 (A) in clause (iii), by striking “; and” and
8 inserting a semicolon;

9 (B) in clause (iv), by striking “or” at the
10 end; and

11 (C) adding at the end the following:

12 “(v) has developed and submitted a
13 State plan for deployment of Next Genera-
14 tion 9–1–1 services that—

15 “(I) uses an accredited, non-pro-
16 prietary, consensus-based, standards-
17 based approach in the design, deploy-
18 ment, and implementation of all as-
19 pects of such services;

20 “(II) incorporates the use of ef-
21 fective cybersecurity resources;

22 “(III) uses open and competitive
23 request for proposal processes, or the
24 applicable State equivalent, for de-

1 ployment of Next Generation 9–1–1
2 services;

3 “(IV) includes input from rel-
4 evant public safety answering points,
5 regional authorities, local authorities,
6 and tribal authorities;

7 “(V) includes a governance body
8 or bodies for the development and de-
9 ployment of Next Generation 9–1–1
10 services that—

11 “(aa) includes relevant
12 stakeholders; and

13 “(bb) consults and coordi-
14 nates with the State point of con-
15 tact required by clause (ii); and

16 “(VI) ensures sufficient staffing
17 and training of staff at all levels to
18 ensure the effectiveness of all aspects
19 of Next Generation 9–1–1 services;
20 or”.

21 (b) GRANT COMMITMENTS.—Section 158(b) of the
22 National Telecommunications and Information Adminis-
23 tration Organization Act (47 U.S.C. 942(b)) is amended
24 by adding at the end the following:

1 “(5) ADDITIONAL GRANT CERTIFICATIONS.—In
2 addition to the certification required under sub-
3 section (c)(2), each applicant for a matching grant
4 under this section, at the time of application, and
5 each applicant that receives a grant shall certify
6 that—

7 “(A) any funds received by the applicant
8 will be utilized to support deployment of Next
9 Generation 9–1–1 services that comply with ac-
10 credited, non-proprietary, consensus-based
11 standards and feature seamless interoperability
12 (as defined in section 5 of the Next Generation
13 9–1–1 Act of 2017);

14 “(B) the applicant has taken all necessary
15 steps to ensure that there is a sustainable fund-
16 ing mechanism for the Next Generation 9–1–1
17 services to be deployed pursuant to the grant to
18 support continued operations, maintenance, and
19 upgrades;

20 “(C) the applicant will coordinate with the
21 First Responder Network Authority to ensure
22 that the implementation of Next Generation 9–
23 1–1 services will be fully interoperable with the
24 nationwide public safety broadband network (as
25 defined in section 6001 of the Middle Class Tax

1 Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C.
2 1401);

3 “(D) the applicant has or will take steps to
4 coordinate with adjoining States to establish
5 and maintain interoperable and interconnected
6 Next Generation 9–1–1 services; and

7 “(E) the applicant has developed a plan
8 for public outreach and education on how to
9 best utilize Next Generation 9–1–1 services and
10 on the capabilities and usefulness of those serv-
11 ices.

12 “(6) PROHIBITION.—No grant funds under this
13 subsection may be used—

14 “(A) for any component of the nationwide
15 public safety broadband network (as defined in
16 section 6001 of the Middle Class Tax Relief
17 and Job Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C.
18 1401); or

19 “(B) to make any payments to a person
20 who has been, for reasons of national security,
21 prohibited by any department or agency of the
22 Federal Government from bidding on a con-
23 tract, participating in an auction, or receiving a
24 grant.”.

1 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 158 of the
2 National Telecommunications and Information Adminis-
3 tration Organization Act (47 U.S.C. 942) is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (b)—

5 (A) in paragraph (1)—

6 (i) in subparagraph (B), by striking “;
7 and” and inserting a semicolon;

8 (ii) in subparagraph (C), by striking
9 the period at the end and inserting “;
10 and”; and

11 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
12 lowing:

13 “(D) administrative costs associated with
14 planning and implementation of Next Genera-
15 tion 9–1–1 services, including related to plan-
16 ning for and preparing an application and re-
17 lated materials as required by this section, if—

18 “(i) such costs are fully documented
19 in materials submitted to the Office; and

20 “(ii) such costs are reasonable and
21 necessary and do not exceed 5 percent of
22 the total grant award.”; and

23 (B) in paragraph (3)(B), by striking “the
24 entity has complied with clauses (i), (iii), and
25 (iv) of subparagraph (A), and the State in

1 which it is located has complied with clause (ii)
2 of such subparagraph” and inserting “the enti-
3 ty has complied with clauses (i), (iii), and (iv),
4 and the State in which it is located has com-
5 plied with clauses (ii) and (v) of such subpara-
6 graph”; and

7 (2) by amending subsection (e)(3)(C) to read as
8 follows:

9 “(C) EXCEPTION.—The term ‘eligible enti-
10 ty’ does not include any entity that has failed
11 to submit—

12 “(i) the certifications required under
13 subsection (b)(5); and

14 “(ii) the most recently required cer-
15 tification under subsection (c) within 30
16 days after the date on which such certifi-
17 cation is due.”.

18 (d) ADJUSTMENT OF MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—
19 Section 158(b)(2) of the National Telecommunications
20 and Information Administration Organization Act (47
21 U.S.C. 942(b)(2)) is amended by striking “60” and insert-
22 ing “80”.

23 (e) CRITERIA.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 15 months
25 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Assist-

1 ant Secretary and the Administrator of the National
2 Highway Traffic Safety Administration shall issue
3 regulations, after providing the public with notice
4 and an opportunity to comment, prescribing the cri-
5 teria for selection for grants under section 158 of
6 the National Telecommunications and Information
7 Administration Organization Act (47 U.S.C. 942),
8 as amended by this Act.

9 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—The criteria shall—

10 (A) include performance requirements and
11 a schedule for completion of any project to be
12 financed by a grant under that section; and

13 (B) specifically permit joint, regional, or
14 multi-State applications for funds.

15 (3) UPDATES.—The Assistant Secretary and
16 the Administrator shall update such regulations as
17 necessary.

18 (4) PRIOR REGULATIONS.—Any regulations
19 issued under section 158(b)(4) of the National Tele-
20 communications and Information Administration Or-
21 ganization Act (47 U.S.C. 942(b)(4)) before the ef-
22 fective date of this Act may be incorporated into the
23 regulations promulgated under this subsection.

24 (5) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section
25 158(b) of the National Telecommunications and In-

1 formation Administration Organization Act (47
2 U.S.C. 942(b)) is amended by striking paragraph
3 (4).

4 (f) ISSUANCE OF GUIDANCE.—Not later than 18
5 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Office
6 shall issue guidance, consistent with the regulations pro-
7 mulgated under subsection (e) of this section, regarding
8 the grant program under section 158 of the National Tele-
9 communications and Information Administration Organi-
10 zation Act (47 U.S.C. 942), as amended by this Act.

11 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to any funds al-
13 ready made available for grants under section 158 of
14 the National Telecommunications and Information
15 Administration Organization Act (47 U.S.C. 942),
16 there is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
17 such grants such sums as may be necessary for fis-
18 cal years 2018 through 2022.

19 (2) USE OF FUNDS.—Any funds appropriated
20 under this subsection shall remain available until ex-
21 pended.

22 (3) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—The Office may
23 utilize up to 5 percent of the funds appropriated
24 under this subsection for reasonable and necessary
25 administrative costs associated with the grant pro-

1 gram required by section 158 of the National Tele-
2 communications and Information Administration Or-
3 ganization Act (47 U.S.C. 942), as amended by this
4 Act.

5 (h) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this Act or an
6 amendment made by this Act shall affect any application
7 pending or grant awarded under section 158 of the Na-
8 tional Telecommunications and Information Administra-
9 tion Organization Act (47 U.S.C. 942) prior to date of
10 enactment of this Act.

11 **SEC. 10. ENCOURAGING DEPLOYMENT OF NEXT GENERA-**
12 **TION 9–1–1 SERVICES.**

13 (a) CONSISTENT IMPLEMENTATION OF NEXT GEN-
14 ERATION 9–1–1 SERVICES.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Office shall implement,
16 to the maximum extent possible, its responsibilities
17 under this Act in a technologically and competitively
18 neutral manner.

19 (2) FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL ACTION.—
20 The Office shall encourage and support efforts by
21 the Federal Government, States, and localities—

22 (A) to implement Next Generation 9–1–1
23 services in a technologically and competitively
24 neutral manner; and

1 (B) to take such other steps as are nec-
2 essary to harmonize and expedite the deploy-
3 ment of Next Generation 9–1–1 services.

4 (b) DEPLOYMENT OF NEXT GENERATION 9–1–1
5 SERVICES.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enact-
6 ment of this Act, the Office, after seeking public comment,
7 shall—

8 (1) identify and recommend such changes to
9 State and local law, including regulations and poli-
10 cies, that the Office considers necessary to better
11 support deployment of Next Generation 9–1–1 serv-
12 ices;

13 (2) recommend model language a State or local-
14 ity can adopt to support deployment of Next Genera-
15 tion 9–1–1 services; and

16 (3) report the findings and recommendations.

17 (c) REQUEST FOR INFORMATION.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
19 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Office
20 shall issue a request for information seeking public
21 comment on what additional actions the Federal
22 Government could take to enhance and support Next
23 Generation 9–1–1 services.

1 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—At a minimum, the re-
2 quest for information required by this subsection
3 shall seek public comment on—

4 (A) whether there is a need for a national
5 public safety answering points certification or
6 credentialing process with respect to Next Gen-
7 eration 9–1–1 services;

8 (B) whether Federal or State law, includ-
9 ing regulations, should be amended to include—

10 (i) specific liability and indemnifica-
11 tion protections for Next Generation 9–1–
12 1 services; and

13 (ii) privacy and data security protec-
14 tions for information conveyed through
15 Next Generation 9–1–1 services or re-
16 tained by Next Generation 9–1–1 services;

17 (C) additional protections to ensure acces-
18 sibility to Next Generation 9–1–1 services for
19 individuals with disabilities; and

20 (D) recommended legislative and regu-
21 latory action related to subparagraphs (A)
22 through (C).

23 (3) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after
24 the date of enactment of this Act, the Office shall
25 publish a report—

1 (A) summarizing the comments received in
2 the request for information required by this sec-
3 tion; and

4 (B) including recommendations for such
5 actions the Office considers necessary to pro-
6 mote the effective and timely implementation of
7 Next Generation 9–1–1 services.

8 **SEC. 11. SUPPORT FOR CYBERSECURITY IN NEXT GENERA-**
9 **TION 9-1-1 SERVICES.**

10 (a) FEDERAL ASSISTANCE.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Office, in consultation
12 with the Department of Homeland Security and the
13 National Institute for Science and Technology, shall
14 provide support to States, localities, vendors, and
15 other entities in addressing cybersecurity issues re-
16 lated to Next Generation 9–1–1 services.

17 (2) SPECIFIC ASSISTANCE.—After publishing
18 the report under subsection (b), the Office shall pro-
19 vide information, training, and other assistance to
20 help implement the recommendations in the report.

21 (b) NIST REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after
22 the date of enactment of this Act, the National Institute
23 of Standards and Technology shall—

1 (1) identify any cybersecurity vulnerabilities
2 that are unique to the implementation of Next Gen-
3 eration 9–1–1 services;

4 (2) identify and recommend best practices, con-
5 sistent with the most recent Framework for Improv-
6 ing Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity, for af-
7 fected entities to protect Next Generation 9-1-1
8 services from the vulnerabilities identified under
9 paragraph (1);

10 (3) identify and recommend specific assistance
11 that can be provided by the Federal Government re-
12 lated to the adoption of any best practices identified
13 under paragraph (2); and

14 (4) publish a report on its findings and rec-
15 ommendations.

16 (c) FCC REPORT.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months
18 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal
19 Communications Commission shall publish a report
20 on the adoption of and adherence—

21 (A) by telecommunications carriers to the
22 network reliability best practices established by
23 the Commission as part of its rulemaking re-
24 lated to Improving 911 Reliability; Reliability
25 and Continuity of Communications Networks,

1 Including Broadband Technologies (28 FCC
2 Record 17476); and

3 (B) by public safety answering points to
4 the public safety answering point best practices
5 for cybersecurity recommended by the Task
6 Force on Optimal Public Safety Answering
7 Point Architecture in its final report issued on
8 February 19, 2016 (DA 16–179).

9 (2) DATA COLLECTION.—The Federal Commu-
10 nications Commission may request from relevant
11 telecommunications carriers and public safety an-
12 swering points such data as may be necessary to
13 prepare the report required by this subsection.

14 (3) PUBLIC COMMENT.—The Federal Commu-
15 nications Commission shall seek public comment on
16 the report required by this subsection prior to its
17 publication.

18 **SEC. 12. GAO STUDY ON THE RESILIENCY OF PUBLIC SAFE-**
19 **TY ANSWERING POINTS.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the
21 United States shall conduct a study regarding the resil-
22 iency, reliability, and survivability of public safety answer-
23 ing points during natural disasters and other catas-
24 trophes.

1 (b) CONTENTS.—In conducting the study under sub-
2 section (a), the Comptroller General shall—

3 (1) examine the affect recent natural disasters
4 or other catastrophes have had on the operability of
5 public safety answering points;

6 (2) identify the common issues that impaired
7 the operations of public safety answering points dur-
8 ing or after the natural disaster or catastrophe, as
9 applicable;

10 (3) identify the current best practices for public
11 safety answering points and telecommunication car-
12 riers to ensure the resiliency of public safety answer-
13 ing points during a natural disaster or other catas-
14 trophe; and

15 (4) determine how Next Generation 9–1–1 serv-
16 ices can improve public safety answering point resil-
17 iency and the overall resiliency of the Nation’s 9–1–
18 1 systems.

19 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the
20 date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General
21 shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and
22 Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on En-
23 ergy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a re-
24 port on the findings of the study under subsection (a),
25 including any recommendations for additional actions the

- 1 Federal Communications Commission or Congress could
- 2 take to enhance public safety answering point resiliency,
- 3 reliability, and survivability.