

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 290

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to upgrade existing emergency communications centers in units of the National Park System to Next Generation 9–1–1 systems, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 29, 2025

Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. KING, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources-

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to upgrade existing emergency communications centers in units of the National Park System to Next Generation 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 “Making National
5 Parks Safer Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

(2) EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CENTER.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “emergency communications center” means—

(i) a facility that—

(I) is designated to receive a 9–1–1 request for emergency assistance; and

(II) performs 1 or more of the functions described in subparagraph (B); or

(ii) a public safety answering point (as defined in section 222 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 222)).

(B) FUNCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The functions described in this subparagraph are the following:

1 (i) Processing and analyzing 9–1–1
 2 requests for emergency assistance and in-
 3 formation and data related to the requests.

4 (ii) Dispatching appropriate emer-
 5 gency response providers.

6 (iii) Transferring or exchanging 9–1–
 7 1 requests for emergency assistance and
 8 information and data related to the re-
 9 quests with 1 or more other emergency
 10 communications centers and emergency re-
 11 sponse providers.

12 (iv) Analyzing any communications re-
 13 ceived from emergency response providers.

14 (v) Supporting incident command
 15 functions.

16 (3) INTEROPERABILITY.—The term “interoper-
 17 ability” means the capability of emergency commu-
 18 nications centers—

19 (A) to receive 9–1–1 requests for emer-
 20 gency assistance and information and data re-
 21 lated to the requests, such as location informa-
 22 tion and callback numbers from a person initi-
 23 ating the request; and

24 (B) to process and share 9–1–1 requests
 25 for emergency assistance and information and

data related to the requests with other emergency communications centers and emergency response providers without the need for proprietary interfaces and regardless of jurisdiction, equipment, device, software, service provider, or other relevant factors.

(4) NEXT GENERATION 9–1–1 SYSTEM.—The term “Next Generation 9–1–1 system” has the meaning given the term “Next Generation 911” in section 9.28 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation).

(5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the National Park Service.

**SEC. 3. ASSESSMENT OF EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS
CENTERS LOCATED IN UNITS OF THE NA-
TIONAL PARK SYSTEM.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall complete an assessment of emergency communications centers located in units of the National Park System to identify—

(1) the implementation status of Next Generation 9–1–1 systems at existing emergency communications centers in units of the National Park System;

1 (2) estimated costs to purchase Next Genera-
2 tion 9–1–1 systems for emergency communications
3 centers in units of the National Park System that
4 have not begun to implement Next Generation 9–1–
5 1 systems; and

6 (3) estimated costs to maintain and operate
7 Next Generation 9–1–1 systems across all emer-
8 gency communications centers in units of the Na-
9 tional Park System.

10 (b) REPORT.—On completion of the assessment
11 under subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to the ap-
12 propriate committees of Congress, and make available on
13 the website of the Department of the Interior, a report—

14 (1) describing the results of the assessment;
15 and

16 (2) identifying issues that may affect the imple-
17 mentation of Next Generation 9–1–1 systems across
18 all emergency communications centers in units of
19 the National Park System, including—

20 (A) jurisdictional issues;

21 (B) technological issues;

22 (C) issues relating to relevant authorities;

23 and

24 (D) issues relating to legal agreements.

1 **SEC. 4. PLAN TO INSTALL NEXT GENERATION 9–1–1 SYS-**
 2 **TEMS IN UNITS OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYS-**
 3 **TEM.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
 5 date on which the report under section 3(b) is submitted,
 6 the Secretary shall develop a plan, based on the results
 7 of the assessment completed under section 3(a) and sub-
 8 ject to subsection (c), to install Next Generation 9–1–1
 9 systems at identified emergency communications centers
 10 in units of the National Park System.

11 (b) CONSULTATION.—In developing the plan under
 12 subsection (a), the Secretary shall consult with—

13 (1) State and local emergency operations offi-
 14 cials to ensure interoperability of the Next Genera-
 15 tion 9–1–1 systems;

16 (2) State and local stakeholders that the super-
 17 intendent of the applicable unit of the National Park
 18 System determines to be appropriate; and

19 (3) relevant Federal agencies, including—

20 (A) the Department of Commerce;

21 (B) the Department of Transportation;

22 and

23 (C) the Federal Communications Commis-
 24 sion.

25 (c) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), a
 26 plan developed under that subsection shall not be required

1 to address emergency communications centers in any unit
2 of the National Park System at which the superintendent
3 of the unit of the National Park System determines that
4 sufficient Next Generation 9–1–1 systems have already
5 been installed or are being installed, as applicable.

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