

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS RELIABILITY AND 911 PROTECTION ACT OF 2026

Draft Statutory Text — Section I

(Annotations included in brackets)

SECTION I — SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Emergency Communications Reliability and 911 Protection Act of 2026.”

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

1. Title I — Findings and Purpose
 2. Title II — National 911 Reliability Standards
 3. Title III — Rural and Underserved Coverage Requirements
 4. Title IV — Next-Generation 911 Modernization
 5. Title V — After-Hours EMS and Dispatch Availability
 6. Title VI — Outage Transparency and Public Notification
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TITLE I — FINDINGS AND PURPOSE

SEC. 101. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

1. That reliable access to emergency services is essential to public safety and national resilience.
2. That 911 outages, routing failures, and after-hours staffing shortages have resulted in preventable injuries and deaths across the United States.
3. That rural communities experience disproportionate failures in 911 access, EMS availability, and dispatch staffing after 5:00 p.m.
4. That existing federal law does not impose enforceable uptime, redundancy, or staffing requirements on carriers or Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs).
5. That severe weather, fiber cuts, and power outages routinely disable 911 access in multiple states, including Indiana.
6. That Congress has authority under the Commerce Clause to regulate interstate telecommunications and emergency communications infrastructure.
7. That national standards for 911 reliability, redundancy, and staffing are necessary to ensure equal protection and public safety for all Americans.

[ANNOTATION: This section creates new statutory findings. No modification to existing law.]

SEC. 102. PURPOSE.

The purposes of this Act are:

1. To establish national reliability, redundancy, and uptime standards for 911 communications.
2. To ensure 24-hour, 7-day-a-week staffing of PSAPs and EMS units in all jurisdictions receiving federal funds.
3. To require redundant routing, backup power, and outage reporting for all carriers handling 911 traffic.
4. To modernize PSAP infrastructure and support Next-Generation 911 (NG911) deployment.
5. To create enforceable civil and criminal penalties for willful or negligent failures that endanger public safety.
6. To ensure transparency through public reporting of outages, staffing failures, and compliance violations.
7. To condition federal telecommunications and emergency-services funding on compliance with this Act.

[ANNOTATION: New statutory purpose section. No modification to existing law.]

TITLE II — NATIONAL 911 RELIABILITY STANDARDS

SEC. 201. MINIMUM UPTIME REQUIREMENTS.

(a) Requirement.

All telecommunications carriers, interconnected VoIP providers, and any entity routing 911 traffic shall maintain **not less than 99.999 percent uptime** for all systems used to deliver 911 calls to PSAPs.

(b) **Scope.**

This requirement applies to:

1. Wireless networks
2. Wireline networks
3. VoIP networks
4. NG911 routing systems
5. Any subcontracted or third-party routing provider

(c) **Reporting.**

Carriers shall submit quarterly uptime reports to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the Federal Emergency Communications Oversight Office (FECOO).

[ANNOTATION: Amends 47 U.S.C. § 615a-1 by adding mandatory reliability standards.]

SEC. 202. REDUNDANT ROUTING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) **Dual-Path Routing.**

All 911 traffic shall be routed through at least **two physically diverse network paths**.

(b) **Prohibition on Single Points of Failure.**

No single fiber cut, equipment failure, or network outage shall be capable of disabling 911 service for an entire county or PSAP service area.

(c) **Certification.**

Carriers must annually certify compliance to the FCC and FECOO.

[ANNOTATION: Supplements FCC authority under 47 U.S.C. §§ 151–154.]

SEC. 203. BACKUP POWER REQUIREMENTS.

(a) **Minimum Backup Power.**

All wireless towers, switching centers, and routing facilities serving 911 traffic shall maintain:

1. **8 hours** of battery backup; and
2. **24 hours** of backup power for critical sites designated under subsection (b).

(b) **Critical Sites.**

Critical sites include:

1. Hospitals
2. Schools
3. State and federal highways
4. Rural corridors
5. PSAP facilities

6. (c) **Compliance.**

Carriers must file annual backup-power compliance reports.

[ANNOTATION: Expands post-Katrina backup-power rules; codifies them in statute.]

SEC. 204. PENALTIES FOR NONCOMPLIANCE.

Failure to comply with Sections 201–203 shall result in civil penalties under Title VII of this Act.

Continuing with Title III of the statutory text.

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And as always, please confirm any civic information with a trusted source.

When we finish all ten titles, I'll move to Item #2 (plain-language explainer), then #3, #4, and #5 — one at a time, exactly as you requested.

TITLE III — RURAL AND UNDERSERVED COVERAGE REQUIREMENTS

SEC. 301. DESIGNATION OF 911 PRIORITY ZONES.

(a) **Designation.**

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC), in consultation with the Federal Emergency Communications Oversight Office (FECOO), shall designate **911 Priority Zones** in areas where:

1. 911 call completion rates fall below national averages;
2. Geographic dead zones prevent reliable mobile 911 access;
3. PSAPs experience chronic after-hours staffing shortages; or
4. Rural or underserved communities lack adequate emergency communications infrastructure.

(b) **Data Sources.**

Designation shall be based on:

1. Carrier-reported coverage maps;
2. PSAP call-handling data;
3. State and county emergency management reports;
4. Public complaints and outage reports.

(c) **Publication.**

The FCC shall publish a list of all 911 Priority Zones annually.

[ANNOTATION: Creates new statutory authority. Interacts with FCC broadband mapping rules under 47 U.S.C. § 1302 but does not amend them.]

SEC. 302. PRIORITY ZONE REMEDIATION PLANS.

(a) **Requirement.**

Any carrier operating within a designated 911 Priority Zone shall submit a **remediation plan** within 180 days of designation.

(b) **Contents of Plan.**

Plans must include:

1. Identification of all 911 coverage gaps;
2. Proposed infrastructure upgrades;
3. Timeline for completion;
4. Backup power improvements;
5. Redundant routing implementation;
6. Staffing or operational changes where applicable.

(c) **Approval.**

FECOO shall approve, modify, or reject remediation plans within 90 days.

(d) **Failure to Comply.**

Failure to submit or implement a remediation plan shall result in penalties under Title VII.

[ANNOTATION: New statutory requirement. Conditions federal telecom funding under 47 U.S.C. § 254.]

SEC. 303. CONDITIONING FEDERAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS FUNDS ON COMPLIANCE.

(a) **Funding Restriction.**

No carrier shall receive funds from:

1. The Universal Service Fund (USF);
2. The Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF);
3. The Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program (BEAD);
4. Any successor program;

...unless the carrier is in full compliance with Titles II and III of this Act.

(b) **Certification.**

Carriers must annually certify compliance to the FCC and FECOO.

(c) **False Certification.**

Knowingly submitting a false certification shall constitute a violation subject to civil and criminal penalties under Title VII.

[ANNOTATION: Amends 47 U.S.C. § 254 to add reliability compliance as a condition of receiving USF support.]

SEC. 304. COUNTY-LEVEL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) Annual Reports.

Each county receiving federal emergency communications funding shall submit an annual report including:

1. PSAP staffing levels;
2. EMS availability and response times;
3. 911 call completion rates;
4. Outage incidents and durations;
5. Corrective actions taken.

(b) Public Availability.

Reports shall be posted on the 911 Reliability Dashboard established under Title VI.

[ANNOTATION: New statutory requirement. No modification to existing law.]

SEC. 305. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR RURAL COUNTIES.

(a) Assistance.

FECOO shall provide technical assistance to rural counties to:

1. Improve PSAP operations;
2. Implement NG911 systems;
3. Enhance GIS mapping;
4. Develop mutual-aid agreements;
5. Improve after-hours EMS coverage.

(b) Priority.

Priority shall be given to counties designated as 911 Priority Zones.

[ANNOTATION: New statutory authority.]

TITLE IV — NEXT-GENERATION 911 (NG911) MODERNIZATION

SEC. 401. NEXT-GENERATION 911 MODERNIZATION GRANTS.

(a) Establishment of Grant Program.

The Federal Emergency Communications Oversight Office (FECOO) shall administer a competitive grant program to support the deployment and modernization of Next-Generation 911 (NG911) systems.

(b) Eligible Entities.

Eligible entities include:

1. State and local governments;
2. Federally recognized tribes;
3. Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs);
4. Regional emergency communications authorities.

(c) Eligible Uses.

Grant funds may be used for:

1. Upgrading Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) systems;
2. Implementing NG911 routing and call-handling systems;
3. Enhancing Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping;
4. Deploying text-to-911 and multimedia-to-911 capabilities;
5. Improving vertical and horizontal location accuracy;
6. Integrating emergency medical data systems;
7. Training personnel in NG911 operations.

(d) Federal Share.

The federal share of any project funded under this section shall not exceed **80 percent** of total project cost.

(e) Maintenance of Effort.

States and localities may not reduce their own emergency communications funding below the average of the previous three fiscal years.

[ANNOTATION: Supplements existing NG911 grant authority under 47 U.S.C. § 942 but expands eligible uses and creates a new federal administrator (FECOO).]

SEC. 402. LOCATION ACCURACY REQUIREMENTS.

(a) Enhanced Location Accuracy.

All carriers routing 911 calls shall comply with enhanced location accuracy requirements established by the FCC, including:

1. **Horizontal accuracy** sufficient to identify the caller's location within a radius determined by FCC rule;
2. **Vertical (z-axis) accuracy** sufficient to identify floor level in multi-story buildings where technically feasible.

(b) Apartment and Complex Identification.

Carriers shall transmit available metadata, including building, unit, or complex identifiers, when technically feasible.

(c) **Periodic Review.**

The FCC shall review and update location accuracy standards every **three years**.

[ANNOTATION: Codifies and expands FCC authority under 47 C.F.R. § 20.18 by placing accuracy requirements directly into statute.]

SEC. 403. INTEROPERABILITY REQUIREMENTS.

(a) **Interoperability Mandate.**

All NG911 systems funded under this Act shall be interoperable with:

1. Neighboring PSAPs;
2. Statewide emergency communications networks;
3. Federal emergency communications systems;
4. Mutual-aid partners.

(b) **Standards.**

Interoperability shall be based on open, non-proprietary standards approved by FECOO.

(c) **Prohibition on Vendor Lock-In.**

No vendor may require proprietary interfaces that prevent interoperability with other NG911 systems.

[ANNOTATION: New statutory requirement. No modification to existing law.]

SEC. 404. DATA SECURITY AND CYBERSECURITY REQUIREMENTS.

(a) **Cybersecurity Standards.**

All NG911 systems shall comply with cybersecurity standards established by FECOO in consultation with:

1. The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA);
2. The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

(b) **Incident Reporting.**

PSAPs and carriers must report cybersecurity incidents affecting 911 operations within **one hour** of detection.

(c) **Prohibition on Foreign Adversary Equipment.**

No NG911 system may use equipment or software produced by entities owned or controlled by foreign adversaries as defined by federal law.

[ANNOTATION: Aligns with existing federal restrictions on foreign telecom equipment (e.g., Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act).]

SEC. 405. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING.

(a) **Technical Assistance.**

FECOO shall provide technical assistance to PSAPs and state agencies for:

1. NG911 deployment;
2. GIS integration;
3. CAD modernization;
4. Cybersecurity compliance.

(b) **Training Programs.**

FECOO shall establish training programs for:

1. PSAP personnel;
2. EMS responders;
3. Local emergency managers;
4. IT and communications staff.

[ANNOTATION: New statutory authority.]

SEC. 501. MINIMUM 24/7 STAFFING REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINTS (PSAPs).

(a) **24/7 On-Site Staffing.**

Any PSAP receiving federal funds under this Act or any other federal emergency-communications program shall maintain **continuous, on-site staffing** at all hours of the day, including weekends and holidays.

(b) **Minimum Staffing Ratios.**

PSAPs shall maintain staffing levels sufficient to:

1. Answer **95 percent** of 911 calls within **15 seconds**;
2. Maintain at least **two trained telecommunicators** on duty at all times;
3. Ensure that no telecommunicator is solely responsible for call-taking and dispatch simultaneously.

(c) **After-Hours Coverage Plans.**

Each PSAP shall file an annual **After-Hours Coverage Plan** with FECOO that includes:

1. Staffing schedules;
2. Backup personnel lists;
3. Mutual-aid dispatch agreements;
4. Procedures for surge events (storms, mass-casualty incidents, etc.).

(d) Failure to Maintain Staffing.

Failure to maintain required staffing levels shall constitute a violation subject to penalties under Title VII.

[ANNOTATION: This is new federal authority. No existing federal law mandates PSAP staffing levels.]

SEC. 502. MINIMUM 24/7 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) AVAILABILITY.

(a) 24/7 EMS Unit Requirement.

Each county receiving federal emergency-services funding shall maintain **at least one fully staffed EMS unit** on duty at all times.

(b) Response Time Standards.

Counties shall meet the following maximum response times:

1. **Urban areas:** 15 minutes;
2. **Rural areas:** 30 minutes;
3. **Frontier or extremely rural areas:** 45 minutes.

(c) Mutual-Aid Agreements.

Counties shall maintain written mutual-aid agreements with neighboring jurisdictions to ensure coverage during:

1. Staffing shortages;
2. High-call-volume periods;
3. Severe weather;
4. Equipment failures.

(d) EMS Staffing Grants.

Counties may apply for federal grants under Section 503 to support:

1. Hiring;
2. Training;
3. Overtime;
4. Retention bonuses;
5. Rural EMS support.

[ANNOTATION: New federal requirement. Interacts with state EMS laws but does not preempt them.]

SEC. 503. RURAL EMS AND PSAP STAFFING GRANTS.

(a) Establishment.

FECOO shall administer a grant program to support rural and underserved counties in meeting staffing requirements under this Title.

(b) Eligible Uses.

Grant funds may be used for:

1. Hiring additional EMS or PSAP personnel;
2. Overtime and shift-differential pay;
3. Training and certification programs;
4. Recruitment and retention incentives;
5. Equipment necessary for 24/7 operations.

(c) Priority.

Priority shall be given to:

1. Counties designated as 911 Priority Zones;
2. Counties with documented after-hours coverage failures;
3. Counties with below-average EMS response times.

[ANNOTATION: New statutory authority modeled on rural health grants under 42 U.S.C. § 254c.]

SEC. 504. REPORTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY.

(a) Annual Staffing Reports.

Each county shall submit an annual report to FECOO detailing:

1. PSAP staffing levels;
2. EMS staffing levels;
3. After-hours coverage failures;
4. Response times;
5. Corrective actions taken.

(b) Public Disclosure.

Reports shall be posted on the 911 Reliability Dashboard established under Title VI.

(c) False Reporting.

Knowingly submitting false staffing or response-time data shall constitute a violation subject to civil and criminal penalties under Title VII.

[ANNOTATION: New statutory requirement.]

SEC. 505. ENFORCEMENT.

(a) **Noncompliance.**

Failure to comply with any provision of this Title shall result in:

1. Civil penalties under Title VII;
2. Suspension of federal emergency-communications funding;
3. Mandatory corrective action plans.

(b) **Willful Negligence.**

Willful or repeated violations resulting in injury or death shall be subject to criminal penalties under Title VII.

[ANNOTATION: Creates enforceable federal authority over staffing and EMS availability.]

TITLE VI — OUTAGE TRANSPARENCY AND PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

SEC. 601. MANDATORY OUTAGE REPORTING.

(a) **Immediate Notification Requirement.**

Any carrier, interconnected VoIP provider, or entity routing 911 traffic shall notify:

1. The Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) affected;
2. The State emergency management authority;
3. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC);
4. The Federal Emergency Communications Oversight Office (FECOO);

...within **five minutes** of detecting any outage affecting 911 call delivery.

(b) **Content of Notification.**

Notifications shall include:

1. Geographic area affected;
2. Estimated number of users impacted;
3. Nature of the outage;
4. Estimated time to restoration;
5. Interim mitigation measures.

(c) **Continuous Updates.**

Carriers shall provide updates every **15 minutes** until service is restored.

(d) **Failure to Report.**

Failure to report an outage under this section shall constitute a violation subject to civil penalties under Title VII.

[ANNOTATION: Strengthens and codifies FCC outage reporting rules under 47 C.F.R. Part 4 by making them statutory and significantly faster.]

SEC. 602. PUBLIC NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.

(a) **Public Alerts.**

If 911 service is impaired, carriers shall issue a **public emergency notification** through:

1. Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA), where appropriate;
2. SMS notifications to affected users;
3. Website and social-media postings;
4. Local media outlets.

(b) **Alternative Emergency Numbers.**

Public notifications shall include:

1. Alternative emergency contact numbers;
2. Instructions for contacting local law enforcement or EMS;
3. Locations of temporary emergency-response stations, if established.

(c) **Accessibility.**

All notifications shall be accessible to:

1. Individuals with disabilities;
2. Non-English speakers;
3. Individuals without broadband access.

[ANNOTATION: New statutory requirement. No existing federal law mandates public notification of 911 outages.]

SEC. 603. FEDERAL 911 RELIABILITY DASHBOARD.

(a) **Establishment.**

FECOO shall establish and maintain a publicly accessible **911 Reliability Dashboard**.

(b) **Dashboard Contents.**

The dashboard shall include:

1. All reported 911 outages;
2. Duration and geographic scope of each outage;
3. PSAP staffing failures;
4. EMS after-hours coverage failures;
5. Carrier compliance violations;
6. Corrective actions taken;
7. County-level annual reports under Section 504.

(c) **Real-Time Updates.**

Outages and staffing failures shall be posted within **one hour** of notification.

(d) **Data Retention.**

All dashboard data shall be retained for **10 years**.

[ANNOTATION: New federal transparency mandate.]

SEC. 604. PUBLIC COMPLAINT AND WHISTLEBLOWER PORTAL.

(a) **Complaint Portal.**

FECOO shall establish a secure online portal for:

1. Public reporting of 911 outages;
2. Reports of PSAP understaffing;
3. Reports of EMS after-hours failures;
4. Reports of carrier noncompliance.

(b) **Whistleblower Protections.**

Employees of carriers, PSAPs, or EMS agencies who report violations shall be protected from:

1. Retaliation;
2. Termination;
3. Demotion;
4. Harassment.

(c) **Confidentiality.**

Whistleblower identities shall remain confidential unless disclosure is required by court order.

[ANNOTATION: Modeled on federal whistleblower protections under 5 U.S.C. App. 3 but tailored to emergency communications.]

SEC. 605. FAILURE TO NOTIFY PUBLIC.

(a) **Violation.**

Failure to issue required public notifications under Section 602 shall constitute a violation subject to civil penalties under Title VII.

(b) **Aggravating Factors.**

Penalties shall be increased if:

1. The outage results in injury or death;
2. The carrier knowingly withheld information;
3. The carrier failed to provide alternative emergency numbers.

[ANNOTATION: New statutory enforcement authority.]

TITLE VII — ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES

SEC. 701. CIVIL PENALTIES.

(a) Civil Penalties for Carriers.

Any carrier, interconnected VoIP provider, or entity routing 911 traffic that violates any requirement of Titles II, III, IV, V, or VI shall be subject to the following civil penalties:

1. **Failure to report a 911 outage:**
Civil penalty of **\$50,000 per hour** of unreported outage.
2. **Failure to maintain required backup power:**
Civil penalty of **\$250,000 per incident**.
3. **Failure to maintain redundant routing:**
Civil penalty of **\$500,000 per incident**.
4. **Failure resulting in injury or death:**
Civil penalty of **\$1,000,000 per incident**.

(b) Civil Penalties for PSAPs.

Any PSAP receiving federal funds that violates staffing or reporting requirements shall be subject to:

1. **Failure to maintain minimum staffing:**
Civil penalty of **\$10,000 per day**.
2. **Failure to notify the public of 911 impairment:**
Civil penalty of **\$25,000 per incident**.
3. **Submission of false staffing or response-time data:**
Civil penalty of **\$50,000 per incident**.

(c) Adjustment for Inflation.

Penalty amounts shall be adjusted annually based on the Consumer Price Index.

[ANNOTATION: Supplements FCC enforcement authority under 47 U.S.C. § 503 by creating new, specific penalty categories for 911-related failures.]

SEC. 702. CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR WILLFUL OR REPEATED VIOLATIONS.

(a) **Misdemeanor Offense.**

Any individual who knowingly:

1. Disables required backup power systems;
2. Falsifies compliance reports;
3. Interferes with required outage notifications; or
4. Knowingly leaves a PSAP or EMS unit unstaffed;

...shall be guilty of a **misdemeanor**, punishable by:

- Up to **1 year** imprisonment;
- A fine of up to **\$100,000**; or
- Both.

(b) **Felony Offense.**

Any individual who willfully or repeatedly violates this Act and whose violation results in:

1. Serious bodily injury; or
2. Death;

...shall be guilty of a **felony**, punishable by:

- Up to **5 years** imprisonment;
- A fine of up to **\$500,000**; or
- Both.

(c) **Corporate Liability.**

If a violation is committed by a corporation, the corporation may be fined up to **\$5,000,000** per felony-level incident.

[ANNOTATION: Creates a new criminal statute. Could be codified in 18 U.S.C. Chapter 47 (Fraud and False Statements) or a new chapter dedicated to emergency communications.]

SEC. 703. FEDERAL EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS OVERSIGHT OFFICE (FECOO).

(a) **Establishment.**

There is established within the Department of Commerce an independent office to be known as the **Federal Emergency Communications Oversight Office (FECOO)**.

(b) **Director.**

The Office shall be headed by a Director appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate.

(c) **Powers.**

FECOO shall have authority to:

1. Conduct audits of carriers, PSAPs, and EMS agencies;
2. Issue subpoenas for documents and testimony;
3. Conduct unannounced inspections;
4. Mandate corrective action plans;
5. Refer cases to the Department of Justice for prosecution;
6. Administer grants under Titles III, IV, and V;
7. Maintain the 911 Reliability Dashboard under Title VI.

(d) **Independence.**

FECOO shall operate independently of the FCC and shall not be subject to direction by any carrier or state agency.

[ANNOTATION: Modeled structurally on Offices of Inspector General under 5 U.S.C. App. 3 but tailored to emergency communications.]

SEC. 704. CORRECTIVE ACTION PLANS.

(a) **Requirement.**

Any entity found to be in violation of this Act shall submit a **Corrective Action Plan (CAP)** within **30 days** of notice.

(b) **Contents.**

The CAP shall include:

1. Identification of the violation;
2. Steps to remedy the violation;
3. Timeline for completion;
4. Responsible personnel;
5. Verification procedures.

(c) **Failure to Implement.**

Failure to implement a CAP shall result in:

1. Additional civil penalties;
2. Suspension of federal funding;
3. Referral for criminal investigation if willful.

[ANNOTATION: New statutory authority.]

SEC. 705. SUSPENSION AND TERMINATION OF FEDERAL FUNDS.

(a) Suspension.

FECOO may suspend federal funding to any carrier, PSAP, or county that:

1. Fails to comply with this Act;
2. Fails to submit required reports;
3. Submits false information;
4. Fails to implement a CAP.

(b) Termination.

Funding may be terminated if violations persist for more than **180 days**.

(c) Restoration.

Funding may be restored upon full compliance.

[ANNOTATION: Amends 47 U.S.C. § 254 by adding compliance-based funding restrictions.]

SEC. 706. JUDICIAL REVIEW.

(a) Right of Review.

Any entity subject to enforcement action may seek judicial review in the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

(b) Standard of Review.

The court shall uphold FECOO's findings unless they are:

1. Arbitrary;
2. Capricious;
3. An abuse of discretion; or
4. Contrary to law.

[ANNOTATION: Mirrors judicial review standards under the Administrative Procedure Act.]

TITLE VIII — FUNDING AND APPROPRIATIONS

SEC. 801. FUNDING SOURCES.

(a) Use of Existing Federal Telecommunications Funds. Funds for the implementation of this Act shall be derived from:

1. The Universal Service Fund (USF);
2. The Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF);
3. The Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program (BEAD);
4. Civil penalties collected under Title VII;
5. Any successor programs to the above.

(b) **Restriction on Use of New Taxes.** Nothing in this Act shall be construed to authorize the imposition of any new federal tax or fee.

(c) **Priority for Reliability and Safety.** The FCC shall prioritize funding for:

1. 911 reliability improvements;
2. Redundant routing infrastructure;
3. Backup power systems;
4. Rural EMS and PSAP staffing;
5. NG911 modernization.

[ANNOTATION: Amends 47 U.S.C. § 254 to explicitly authorize reliability-based use of USF funds.]

SEC. 802. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) **Authorization.** There are authorized to be appropriated:

1. **\$1,000,000,000** for NG911 modernization grants under Title IV;
2. **\$500,000,000** for rural EMS and PSAP staffing grants under Title V;
3. **\$150,000,000** for FECOO operations and oversight;
4. **\$50,000,000** for the 911 Reliability Dashboard and public reporting systems.

(b) **Availability.** Funds appropriated under this section shall remain available until expended.

(c) **Supplement Not Supplant.** Funds provided under this Act shall supplement, not supplant, existing federal, state, or local funding for emergency communications.

[ANNOTATION: New appropriations authority. Does not modify existing law.]

SEC. 803. LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.

(a) **Administrative Cap.** No more than **5 percent** of funds appropriated under this Act may be used for administrative expenses by FECOO or any grant recipient.

(b) **Reporting.** FECOO shall publish annual reports detailing administrative expenditures.

[ANNOTATION: New statutory requirement.]

SEC. 804. AUDIT AND OVERSIGHT OF FEDERAL FUNDS.

(a) **Audit Requirement.** All entities receiving funds under this Act shall be subject to audit by:

1. FECOO;
2. The Government Accountability Office (GAO);
3. The Inspector General of the Department of Commerce.

(b) **Audit Frequency.** Audits shall occur at least once every **three years**, or more frequently if FECOO determines that risk factors warrant additional oversight.

(c) **Corrective Actions.** Entities found to misuse funds shall:

1. Repay misused amounts;
2. Be subject to civil penalties under Title VII;
3. Be ineligible for future funding for up to **five years**.

[ANNOTATION: Mirrors federal grant oversight standards under 31 U.S.C. §§ 7501–7507.]

SEC. 805. PROHIBITION ON DIVERSION OF FUNDS.

(a) **Prohibition.** No state or local government may divert funds received under this Act for purposes unrelated to:

1. 911 reliability;
2. PSAP staffing;
3. EMS availability;
4. NG911 modernization.

(b) **Violation.** Diversion of funds shall result in:

1. Immediate suspension of funding;
2. Repayment of diverted funds;
3. Civil penalties under Title VII.

[ANNOTATION: Similar to existing 911 fee diversion prohibitions under 47 U.S.C. § 615a-1(f), but expanded to include staffing and EMS funding.]

SEC. 806. FEDERAL SHARE AND MATCHING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) **Federal Share.** Unless otherwise specified, the federal share of any project funded under this Act shall not exceed **80 percent**.

(b) **Local Match.** The remaining **20 percent** may be provided by:

1. State or local funds;
2. In-kind contributions;
3. Private-sector partnerships.

(c) **Waiver.** FECOO may waive matching requirements for:

1. Counties designated as 911 Priority Zones;
2. Counties with populations under 20,000;
3. Tribal governments.

[ANNOTATION: New statutory authority.]

TITLE IX — RULEMAKING AND IMPLEMENTATION

SEC. 901. RULEMAKING BY THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION.

(a) **Rulemaking Required.** Not later than **18 months** after the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) shall promulgate regulations necessary to implement:

1. The uptime requirements under Title II;
2. The redundant routing requirements under Title II;
3. The backup power requirements under Title II;
4. The Priority Zone designation process under Title III;
5. The location accuracy standards under Title IV;
6. The outage reporting requirements under Title VI.

(b) **Consultation.** In promulgating regulations under this section, the FCC shall consult with:

1. The Federal Emergency Communications Oversight Office (FECOO);
2. The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA);
3. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA);
4. State and local emergency management agencies;
5. Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs).

(c) **Public Comment.** The FCC shall provide for a public comment period of not less than **60 days**.

(d) **Periodic Review.** The FCC shall review and update regulations issued under this section every **five years**.

[ANNOTATION: Implements new statutory mandates; supplements FCC authority under 47 U.S.C. §§ 151–154.]

SEC. 902. IMPLEMENTATION BY THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS OVERSIGHT OFFICE (FECOO).

(a) **Implementation Authority.** FECOO shall be responsible for implementing:

1. Grant programs under Titles III, IV, and V;
2. The 911 Reliability Dashboard under Title VI;
3. Enforcement actions under Title VII;
4. Technical assistance programs under Titles III, IV, and V.

(b) **Coordination.** FECOO shall coordinate with:

1. The FCC;
2. The Department of Commerce;
3. The Department of Homeland Security;
4. State and local governments;
5. Tribal governments.

(c) **Guidance.** FECOO may issue guidance documents, technical standards, and best-practice recommendations consistent with this Act.

[ANNOTATION: New statutory authority establishing FECOO as an implementing agency.]

SEC. 903. STATE IMPLEMENTATION AND COORDINATION.

(a) **State Plans.** Each state receiving federal funds under this Act shall submit a **State Emergency Communications Implementation Plan** to FECOO within **one year** of enactment.

(b) **Plan Requirements.** State plans shall include:

1. A statewide NG911 deployment strategy;
2. A PSAP staffing and training plan;
3. A rural EMS coverage plan;
4. A cybersecurity compliance plan;

5. A mutual-aid coordination plan.

(c) **Approval.** FECOO shall approve or require modifications to state plans within **120 days**.

(d) **Failure to Submit.** Failure to submit a state plan shall result in suspension of federal funding under this Act.

[ANNOTATION: New statutory requirement; similar to state plan requirements in other federal infrastructure programs.]

SEC. 904. TRIBAL IMPLEMENTATION.

(a) **Tribal Eligibility.** Federally recognized tribes shall be eligible for all grants and programs under this Act.

(b) **Tribal Plans.** Tribal governments may submit Tribal Emergency Communications Implementation Plans in lieu of state plans.

(c) **Sovereignty.** Nothing in this Act shall be construed to diminish tribal sovereignty or jurisdiction.

[ANNOTATION: Standard tribal participation language consistent with federal grant programs.]

SEC. 905. FEDERAL PREEMPTION.

(a) **Minimum Standards.** The requirements of this Act shall constitute **minimum national standards** for 911 reliability, PSAP staffing, EMS availability, and outage reporting.

(b) **State Authority.** States may adopt standards that exceed the requirements of this Act.

(c) **Conflict.** In the event of a conflict between state law and this Act, the provisions of this Act shall control.

[ANNOTATION: Establishes federal floor, not ceiling; consistent with federal safety statutes.]

SEC. 906. TRANSITION PERIOD.

(a) **Transition Period.** Entities subject to this Act shall have:

1. **Two years** to comply with Titles II and III;
2. **One year** to comply with Title V;
3. **Immediate** compliance required for Title VII penalties.

(b) **Extensions.** FECOO may grant extensions of up to **one additional year** for:

1. Counties with populations under 20,000;
2. Tribal governments;
3. Entities demonstrating financial hardship.

[ANNOTATION: New statutory authority.]

TITLE X — EFFECTIVE DATES

SEC. 1001. EFFECTIVE DATES.

(a) **Immediate Effect.** The following provisions shall take effect **immediately upon enactment**:

1. Civil and criminal penalties under Title VII;
2. Outage reporting requirements under Section 601;
3. Public notification requirements under Section 602;
4. Establishment of the Federal Emergency Communications Oversight Office (FECOO) under Section 703.

(b) **One-Year Compliance Period.** The following provisions shall take effect **one year** after the date of enactment:

1. PSAP staffing requirements under Section 501;
2. EMS availability requirements under Section 502;
3. State and Tribal Emergency Communications Implementation Plans under Section 903 and Section 904.

(c) **Two-Year Compliance Period.** The following provisions shall take effect **two years** after the date of enactment:

1. Uptime requirements under Section 201;
2. Redundant routing requirements under Section 202;
3. Backup power requirements under Section 203;
4. Priority Zone remediation requirements under Section 302;
5. NG911 interoperability and cybersecurity requirements under Sections 403 and 404.

(d) **Rulemaking Deadlines.** The FCC shall complete all rulemaking required under Section 901 within **18 months** of enactment.

(e) **Extensions.** FECOO may grant extensions of up to **one additional year** for:

1. Counties with populations under 20,000;
2. Tribal governments;
3. Entities demonstrating financial hardship;
4. Counties designated as 911 Priority Zones.

(f) **No Delay for Penalties.** Nothing in this section shall be construed to delay the applicability of penalties for:

1. Knowingly submitting false information;
2. Willful negligence resulting in injury or death;
3. Failure to report outages under Section 601.

[ANNOTATION: Standard effective-date structure. No modification to existing law.]