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NEW NG911 RESOURCE: OPTIONS FOR NG911 LEGISLATION

Guidelines for State NG911 Legislative Language Now Available

(Washington, D.C.) – November 16, 2012 – Current 911 laws vary dramatically from state to state. Many laws do not accommodate new technologies, and deficiencies in 911 governance and inadequate funding models must be addressed before Next Generation (NG) 911 can be implemented. Each State faces unique challenges in transitioning to NG911, and in an effort to support State and local transition efforts, the National 911 Program today announced the release of “Guidelines for State NG911 Legislative Language: *Examples and Options for Legislative Language to Facilitate the Deployment of Next Generation 911.*”

This document was developed after an extensive review of existing information regarding current 911 legislation and regulation in all 50 states, and with input from 911 subject matter experts and local, regional, State, Federal stakeholders, private industry representatives and advocacy associations. It is a new resource created to support the legislative modifications that may be necessary for a state, region or county to transition to NG911.

The 911 community and colleagues in EMS, fire and law enforcement agree that the 911 system must be upgraded from the current analog, circuit-switched technology to a digital, Internet protocol-based infrastructure to meet the communication needs of the public for 911 response. However, many existing laws, regulations and tariffs specifically reference old 911 technologies, and may inhibit the implementation of NG911. While the *Guidelines* are not a “one-size-fits-all” approach to state 911 legislation, they represent “ideal” yet “generic” legislative language that can be customized to address the unique needs of each state. The *Guidelines* highlight an inventory of NG911 transition issues and model legislative language a State can adopt to address these issues.

The “Guidelines for State NG911 Legislative Language” document is available on the “Funding & Policy” page of www.911.gov. For more information, contact Laurie Flaherty at 202-366-2705 or laurie.flaherty@dot.gov. The National 911 Program is housed within the Office of Emergency Medical Services at the US DOT’s National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

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