

<b>Act Number:</b>	09-086	
<b>Bill Number:</b>	761	
<b>Senate Pages:</b>	2293-2294	<b>2</b>
<b>House Pages:</b>	4775-4798	<b>24</b>
<b>Committee:</b>	Public Safety: 7-9, 15-16, 78-79, 81-84	<b>12</b>
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**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
2009**

**VOL. 52  
PART 7  
2006 - 2343**

ch/rgd  
SENATE

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Senate Bill 384; calendar page 32, Calendar 367,  
substitute for Senate Bill 785; calendar page 37,  
Calendar 490, Senate Bill 898; calendar page 40,  
Calendar 556, Senate Bill 1061; calendar 558,  
substitute for Senate Bill 1063; and calendar page 41,  
Calendar 328, substitute for Senate Bill 814.

Mr. President, that completes those items placed on  
the 1st Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Please call for the consent calendar. The  
machine will be open. Oh, Senator Looney. Yes, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:.

Yes. Mr. President, just for purpose of  
clarification. I believed I had earlier marked on  
calendar page 21, 2 items on the consent. Initially  
we had removed -- placed calendar 103, but I believe  
we also had Calendar 82 on page 21, Senate Bill 761.

THE CHAIR:

No, sir. Those are not noted here on our  
calendar.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Okay. We'd like to place that item on the  
consent calendar, Mr. President, calendar page 21,  
Calendar 82, Senate Bill 761.

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THE CHAIR:

There's a motion to place that item on the consent here. Seeing no objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE CLERK:

The Senate is now voting by roll call on the consent calendar. Will all senators please return to the chamber. The Senate is voting by roll call on the consent calendar. Will all senators please return to the chamber.

THE CHAIR:

Have all Senators voted? If all Senators have voted, please check your vote. The machine will be closed. The Clerk will call the tally.

THE CLERK:

Motion is on adoption of Consent Calendar  
Number 1.

Total Number Voting	35
Those voting Yea	35
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	1

THE CHAIR:

The consent calendar passes.

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**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
HOUSE**

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Senate.

Total Number of Voting	140
Necessary for Passage	71
Those voting Yea	140
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	11

DEPUTY SPEAKER MCCLUSKEY:

Bill passes in concurrence with the Senate.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar 627?

THE CLERK:

On page 25, Calendar 627, Senate Bill Number 761,  
AN ACT CONCERNING AN ENHANCED 911 SERVICE DATABASE,  
favorable report of the Committee on Appropriations.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MCCLUSKEY:

The honorable Chair of the Public Safety  
Committee, Representative Dargan, you have the floor,  
sir.

REP. DARGAN (115th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move in acceptance of  
the Committee's favorable report and passage of the  
bill in concurrence with the Senate.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MCCLUSKEY:

Question before the chamber is acceptance of the  
Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the  
bill in concurrence with the Senate.

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Will you remark?

REP. DARGAN (115th):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

This bill will give many of the municipalities that have already purchased emergency notification systems, which communicates with some or all their citizens in the event of a emergency. The proposal also will allow these municipalities to use the enhanced -- the state-enhanced 911 database at no charge providing the most up-to-date information that is available.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MCCLUSKEY:

Thank you, sir, for your remarks.

Will you remark on the bill?

Representative Perillo of the 113th, you have the floor, sir.

REP. PERILLO (113th):

Mr. Speaker, thank you very much.

If I could, just a couple of questions for the proponent, through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MCCLUSKEY:

Please proceed, sir.

REP. PERILLO (113th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, to the proponent.

Could the Representative please just describe for the chamber exactly what emergency notification is and what reversed 911 is and what it does and what benefit that it does offer to the community because it does offer a tremendous benefit. And I think it would be beneficial if everybody knew what those benefits were.

Through you, sir, thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MCCLUSKEY:

Representative Dargan.

REP. DARGAN (115th):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

It will give that municipality the chance to at least to reach out to as many as their citizens as possible in that there's an event of some form of emergency within their particular community that the law enforcement or fire service will use in that event and that we'll be able to call number of residents at a really quick rate to get that emergency notification out, through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MCCLUSKEY:

Representative Perillo.

REP. PERILLO (113th):

Mr. Speaker, thank you.

And I thank the Chair of the Public Safety Committee for his answer.

The Reverse 911 systems that we currently use in the State of Connecticut are of tremendous value to the residents. As the Chairman said, what these software systems are able to do is identify specific groups of a population within a community and even in many cases, across communities, and it enables the police department, the fire department -- whatever the public safety answering point, the dispatchers are -- it enables that public safety agency to communicate directly through telephone lines to those residents that there may or -- that there may be a specific emergency in their community.

For example, in my home community of Shelton, we boarder on the Housatonic River, and there are many sections of Shelton that are susceptible to flooding. And what our police department is able to do is, actually, capture all the phone numbers of everybody in that flood zone and contact them instantaneously to let them know that there is a flooding risk and that they should be aware of it. And, also, you know, if there's a need for them to evacuate that is able to be communicated as well.

It can also be used in situations where there is, you know -- you know, many of our communities have highways running through them, state roads and, you

know -- you know, federal interstate highways. If there were some sort of chemical spill on that highway and there were some sort of chemical or environmental danger, individuals living in close proximity could be notified immediately. And it's very simple. The software is -- is quite comprehensive.

One question, I do have for the proponent, through you, sir. This software can be expensive and I know many communities in our state already have the software.

Is there anything in this bill that should be construed to imply that for those communities that do not already this Reverse 911 software, that the State of Connecticut would be paying for that software?

Through you, sir.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MCCLUSKEY:

Representative Dargan.

REP. DARGAN (115th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, to the proponent of the question.

Right now, that answer would be no, that there is not available funds for that municipality to purchase one of these devices, through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MCCLUSKEY:

Representative Perillo.

REP. PERILLO (113th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and, again, I thank the gentleman for his question.

Another follow up question, if I may?

A little bit of a different train of thought.

One problem that many of these Reverse 911 software systems have had is that phones utilized through voice over IP, such as companies like Vonage. Do not necessarily capture all the information that's required for Reverse 911. I know there is some legislation -- there's some language in this bill that refers to voice over IP.

And my question for the proponent, through you, will this bill require that companies, like Vonage, provide the information that our police departments and public safety answering points need in order to run a functional and effective Reverse 911 system?

Thank you, sir, through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MCCLUSKEY:

Representative Dargan.

REP. DARGAN (115th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

That is a very good point. There are ongoing meetings right now with the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, not only with

companies such as, Vonage, but with cellular transmission that they're not -- they have not been able to get the most updated information as of yet.

And there are ongoing negotiations and talks with those specific companies to get the most updated information back to our respective communities.

Because in a number of instances right now, there are a number of people that really don't have a hard line at home and there's cellular is their major voice transmission. And, at the present time, state agencies have been trying to work to upgrade that part of this system to adequately get that out to the residents that have cellular as their only use of operation, through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MCCLUSKEY:

Representative Perillo.

REP. PERILLO (113th):

Mr. Speaker, thank you.

And the gentleman makes an excellent point. As residents throughout the State of Connecticut leave their standard landline telephones and almost exclusively utilize their cell phones. And we are seeing that more and more throughout the state of Connecticut. As that happens, it's going to be imperative that our public safety answering points

have access to our cell phone information and utilize our cell phones as a means by which to communicate to our residents.

You know, very simply, you know, depending on which article you read or which study you read or which poll you read, the number of households that do not have a traditional landline is increasing rapidly every year. And we find ourselves in this situation more and more where in order to get to somebody in their home, you can't just dial their phone number as you usually did or look them up in a phone book as we had been accustomed to. More and more, we're seeing the need to know their cell phone and reach them in their cell phone. Quite frankly, the cell phone, for most people, is the most convenient way to reach them. And that's going to be very, very, important to our public safety and emergency management strategies and policies going forward.

Mr. Speaker, I support the bill that's before us. The fact that we are moving to monthly notification as opposed to annual notification is tremendously important, as we know, people move all the time. And our ability to keep our public safety answering points well informed with monthly information and the changes that go along with it is only going to serve well our

ability to utilize Reverse 911 and get in touch with them when there is an emergency.

And that monthly -- even though there is a moderate price tag to it, at the end of the day, it is something that's going to be of great value to our public safety community and our ability to provide emergency management and keep everyone safe.

And, again, I urge support for the bill, and I thank the chamber for its time.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MCCLUSKEY:

Thank you, sir, for your remarks.

Will you remark further on the bill?

The honorable gentleman from New Canaan, Representative Hetherington, you have the floor, sir.

REP. HETHERINGTON (125th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

If I may add a few questions to the proponent?

DEPUTY SPEAKER MCCLUSKEY:

Please proceed.

REP. HETHERINGTON (125th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, would you summarize -- would the proponent summarize what the -- what enhancements the State system adds?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MCCLUSKEY:

Representative Dargan.

REP. DARGAN (115th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Basically, what this will do now is give to the -- most updated information on a monthly basis that the State can provide to the communities that already have this service in place. I think there's approximately somewhere in the vicinity of about 90 communities, Representative Hetherington, that has this Reverse 911 system. So this, through the providers within our State, will be the most updated and accurate that our community -- our first responders, fire service, our emergency management, our law enforcement. If there's an incident within their respective community that they could get to as many people as possible in that community that message that they want to send out, through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MCCLUSKEY:

Representative Hetherington.

REP. HETHERINGTON (125th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, are the cell phones accessible now or is that something that comes exclusively with the State's help?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MCCLUSKEY:

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Representative Dargan.

REP. DARGAN (115th):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Representative, that is something that they still have not been able to determine yet. How they could get that information back on a cell phone. And that is a major concern of not only mine but of my good ranking member, Representative Perillo, as we move forward, as they have been in negotiations and meeting with these different respective companies that do have cell phone use within our state, through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MCCLUSKEY:

Representative Hetherington.

REP. HETHERINGTON (125th):

Thank you. Through you, Mr. Speaker, what is the source of the State's system, so that it's obviously better than the town's that this would be an enhancement but what is the source of the State's that isn't accessible to the towns?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MCCLUSKEY:

Representative Dargan.

REP. DARGAN (115th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, I don't think that the State or the local community that has this system,

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one's better than another. This basically will say to providers that they will submit on a monthly basis the most updated information of subscribers that they have, and, then, in hand, the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management could supply that information back to the respective communities, through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MCCLUSKEY:

Representative Hetherington.

REP. HETHERINGTON (125th):

Thank you.

And does the State issue any Reverse 911 calls or is it all handled by the local municipality?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MCCLUSKEY:

Representative Dargan.

REP. DARGAN (115th):

Through you, right now, I would say, no. With the reverse with that -- but they do, in case of emergencies, such as, a hurricane or some sort. The Governor then will institute over at the State Armory a group of individuals collectively, a number of state agencies, a number of utility companies, with our military, and then through that -- and then through the different regions within the state that have been

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set up through Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management then there would be notifications depending on what that specific catastrophic situation might be, through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MCCLUSKEY:

Thank you.

What happens in the case of someone's number that is restricted or unlisted? Is that still available for these purposes?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MCCLUSKEY:

Representative Dargan.

REP. DARGAN (115th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, to the best of my knowledge, that, in some instances, where there might be a restricted number because of bills that we have in the state dealing with police, judges, in some instances, that those numbers would probably be protected.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MCCLUSKEY:

Representative Hetherington.

REP. HETHERINGTON (125th):

I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker.

What was the last comment there was some noise --

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those numbers would probably not be available, through you, Mr. Speaker, is that what you said?

DEPUTY SPEAKER MCCLUSKEY:

Representative Dargan.

REP. DARGAN (115th):

I would say, yes.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MCCLUSKEY:

Representative Hetherington.

REP. HETHERINGTON (125th):

I wondered do you know if any towns or the State has undertaken to have a voluntary registry where people who had cell phone numbers, for example, could go and register their number so they would receive these calls?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MCCLUSKEY:

Representative Dargan.

REP. DARGAN (115th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Since this system is somewhat new, no, I'm not familiar with that as of yet, Representative Hetherington, but I know this has been an ongoing issue. It's some new type of technology that hasn't been around for a number of years and. It's something that we are looking to improve on for our

municipalities.

I know in some areas that are impacted by our prisons, for example, Enfield and Somers. They also have a notification through Department of Corrections in case that there was some form of prison outbreak or some concerns that might have happened at one of the prisons, through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MCCLUSKEY:

Representative Hetherington.

REP. HETHERINGTON (125th):

Thank you.

I thank the Representative for his very thorough answers, and I'm very happy to support this measure. I've seen this demonstrated in our community of New Canaan, and I think it's -- it's a very exciting, a very significant advancement in terms of emergency alert.

I think that the idea of having a voluntary registry for people who are willing and ought to be very willing to put their cell phones on a registry so that they would receive notice in the case -- as so often is the case, that their cell phone is their only contact point. So I'm very pleased to urge acceptance of this bill.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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DEPUTY SPEAKER MCCLUSKEY:

Thank you, sir, for your remarks.

The honorable ranking member of the Environment Committee, Representative Chapin, you have the floor, sir.

REP. CHAPIN (67th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, some questions to the proponent of the bill, through you, please?

DEPUTY SPEAKER MCCLUSKEY:

Please, proceed.

REP. CHAPIN (67th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

In lines 73 and 74, there's new language that defines emergency notification system. Is an emergency notification system what's commonly referred to as a Reverse 911 system?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MCCLUSKEY:

Representative Dargan.

REP. DARGAN (115th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

There's some difference of opinion on 911 or reverse -- the Reverse 911. The Reverse 911 is a common somewhat of a patented name. So, in some instances, they just use it. They call it emergency

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notification system instead of the Reverse 911,  
through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MCCLUSKEY:

Representative Chapin.

REP. CHAPIN (67th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and again, through you.

Also, under that definition, it says, it means a  
service that notifies the public of an emergency. Can  
the gentleman tell me if the term "emergency" is  
defined in this bill?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MCCLUSKEY:

Representative Dargan.

REP. DARGAN (115th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, I don't know if it's  
actually defined, but I think it's important to point  
out that within the communities that have this, I know  
in West Haven that we have this. It's been used for  
instances where there's been crimes in the specific  
area that the police chief would send out notification  
on that. I think it's really up to that -- along with  
the chief elected office of that community -- mayor,  
first selectman, what other form of government and  
emergency personnel -- police, fire, EMS, because it  
really changes dramatically throughout our state.

Even though for a small state that -- over the past couple of years, Emergency Management, Homeland Security, where they developed regions within our state similar to -- even though we really don't have a county form of government but regions within our state, whereby that these local officials really know what they -- what they feel is best within their specific community to get that specific message out, through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MCCLUSKEY:

Representative Chapin.

REP. CHAPIN (67th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and, again, through you.

In lines 100 through 102, it looks like the bill contemplates providing an exemption from disclosure pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act. And I note that new language is amending a current statute. Can the gentleman tell me what this exemption specifically applies to in this section and what information is available to the public?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MCCLUSKEY:

Representative Dargan.

REP. DARGAN (115th):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

In that line there, you know, over the years there's been a number of discussions between Freedom of Information, state police agencies, Corrections, what's FOIAble and what is not FOIAble. So, underneath this -- underneath that line that that you talk about, in line 102, Section 1-200 that this information would be FOIAble, through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MCCLUSKEY:

Representative Chapin.

REP. CHAPIN (67th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

As I read it, it says that this enabling emergency notification system provision of the subscriber information collected, based on that, it would not be available to the public; is that correct?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DARGAN (115th):

Representative Dargan.

REP. DARGAN (115th):

There's -- there's been some comment and feedback between FOI and Emergency Management and Homeland Security just on that question. And it really hasn't been clear where there's been a case yet, where something -- that we're -- where this information has been FOIAble. There's been exemptions in the past few

years dealing with this. So I wouldn't want to give the wrong answer to the proponent of the question because I don't know if that's actually been answered as of yet, through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MCCLUSKEY:

Representative Chapin.

REP. CHAPIN (67th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I thank the Chairman for his answers.

I think on several -- during several responses, he did indicate that we're kind of feeling our way into this process in the State of Connecticut. Specifically, I have some concerns as to what does constitute an emergency. I think this body over last ten years has done a great deal to protect the privacy of people with their do not -- the Do Not Call List that's operated through the Department of Consumer Protection.

And I know myself in my town, I have received these Reverse 911 calls and, at times, I've questioned whether or not it was actually a true emergency. I am on the Do Not Call List so I do view these calls that may be considered frivolous to be somewhat intrusive.

I do commend the Chairman for recognizing that we

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really are in the infancy stages of this particular system and the use of this system. And I'm sure the same goes true for the Freedom of Information reference that the Chairman noted.

I'm not aware that there have been any complaints filed, but, certainly, I'm sure if there are, we'll probably be taking another look at it at that time. So I think the bill before us today is a well thought out and deserving of support so I encourage my colleagues to do so.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MCCLUSKEY:

Thank you, sir, for your remarks.

Will you remark further on the bill?

The honorable lady from Darien, Representative Wood, you have the floor, madam.

REP. WOOD (141st):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I do have some questions for the proponent of the bill but I'll also say I'm very supportive of this and our town very much wants this legislation.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MCCLUSKEY:

Please proceed, madam.

REP. WOOD (141st):

To the proponent of the bill, I have a question.

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Who coordinates the updates of all the capture of the phone numbers?

DEPUTY SPEAKER MCCLUSKEY:

Representative Dargan.

REP. DARGAN (115th):

Through you, through the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MCCLUSKEY:

Representative Wood.

REP. WOOD (141st):

Thank you.

On the updates that are provided monthly to the towns, I think you mentioned there was a cost to the towns. I was unclear on that. There's was no cost to the towns? There was cost to software?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MCCLUSKEY:

Representative Dargan.

REP. DARGAN (115th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, if I heard the question right. The software -- there's a cost to the software that the community really pays for. The update is -- the update on a monthly basis is not incurred by the local municipality. It comes through the Enhanced 911 system where there's a fee on most of the people

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subscriber's bills, through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MCCLUSKEY:

Representative Wood.

REP. WOOD (141st):

Thank you.

To the proponent of the bill, thank you very much. And I'm very supportive of this bill, and I hope the chamber will vote to support this.

Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MCCLUSKEY:

Thank you, lady, for your remarks.

Will you remark further on the bill? Will you remark further on the bill?

If not, will staff and guests please come to the well of the House. Will the members please take your seats. The machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

The House of Representative is voting by roll call, members to the chamber. The House is voting by roll call, members to the chamber.

DEPUTY SPEAKER KIRKLEY-BEY:

Have all the members voted? Have all the members voted? Please check the board to see that your vote has been properly cast. The machine will be locked and the Clerk will prepare the tally.

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Will the Clerk please announce the tally?

THE CLERK:

Senate Bill 761, in concurrence with the Senate

Total Number of Voting 142

Necessary for Passage 72

Those voting Yea 142

Those voting Nay 0

Those absent and not voting 9

DEPUTY SPEAKER KIRKLEY-BEY:

The bill passes, as amended, with the Senate.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar Number 601.

THE CLERK:

On page 22, Calendar 601, House Bill Number 6432.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF TRANSPORTATION-RELATED  
GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND FUNDS FOR DEBT SERVICE,  
favorable report of the committee on Finance, Revenue  
and Bonding.

DEPUTY SPEAKER KIRKLEY-BEY:

Representative Staples, you have the floor, sir.

REP. STAPLES (96th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I move acceptance of the Joint  
Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER KIRKLEY-BEY:

The question before us is on acceptance of the

**JOINT  
STANDING  
COMMITTEE  
HEARINGS**

**PUBLIC  
SAFETY AND  
SECURITY**

**PART 1  
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arl/gbr PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY 11:00 A.M.  
COMMITTEE

REP. DARGAN: Some of the new members of the committee, we try to move the process so try to keep the questions to minimum. If you have further questions after the person is done, the individual, you could go outside and have a conversation with him or the two cochairs are equipped with tasers and we will taser other members of the committee if they ask too many questions.

Thank you.

SENATOR STILLMAN: As you know, I'm the nonviolent one of this pair here, so I give all those duties to him.

REP. CHAPIN: But you scare me more though.

SENATOR STILLMAN: I'm so glad you recognize that Representative Chapin, thank you.

With that -- oh, and also for people who are not familiar with the process here don't be surprised if members get up and leave and come back, because there are other committee meetings going on, and people are pulled in a variety of directions all at the same time right now.

So with that, we'll begin with the Legislators, agency heads and elected officials and Commissioner Thomas you've got the floor.

JAMES M. THOMAS: Thank you very much, Senator.

SB760  
SB762

SB761

Good morning Senator Stillman, Representative Dargan and other members of the public safety committee. Just for the record my name is James M. Thomas, and I'm the Commissioner for the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security.

arl/gbr PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY 11:00 A.M.  
COMMITTEE

I'm here to speak on three bills. I've submitted written testimony, so I will not reiterate what's on there.

But the first bill was Senate Bill 760, concerning Crisis Response Drills and Fire Drills. We're very fortunate in Emergency Management Homeland Security to have a great relationship with the fire service. They have to do monthly drills in the schools. We're asking that in lieu of one of the fire drills every three months they do a school emergency drill. It could be for a crisis situation in school, whether we call them a lockdown or a lockout, or a tornado coming to Connecticut, we want them to be prepared for both emergency management and homeland security issues.

First to start it out, we worked with the fire service on the language of the bill. The first drill within 30 days of the school would have to be a fire drill, and that would start the ball rolling. But we would like to see the schools -- it wouldn't cost them any extra money, but in lieu of 12 fire drills, we'd like to three, if we could, emergency drills to train the faculty, staff, and the teachers.

The second bill is Senate Bill 761, it's Enhanced 9-1-1 Database. And basically we've been working with the towns and cities and helping them purchase emergency notification systems. There's many vendors that are out there. Currently the towns are buying that data once a year from different providers. This bill, we've been working with the Department of Public Safety on it and other emergency services. We are proposing that that database be provided free to the towns and cities and also our agency, again, at no cost on a monthly basis so it's more current.

And we do have concurrence from the Department of Public Safety as well as everybody connected with the bill. And I think it's going to be a tremendous service. It's been used very frequently by towns and cities to, if you will, reverse 9-1-1 contact individuals who need assistance.

The last bill, is Senate Bill 762, which is mutual aid and mobile support units and nuclear safety fund. Basically under Senate Bill 762, there's two pieces. One, it clarifies the application of certain sections Title 28, which is our agency when we activate a civil preparedness force such as urban search and rescue. Right now it's composed of about 140 volunteers, men and women who come in, and they do a great job. Matter of fact, we put them on call yesterday. We had a building collapse in Derby, the fourth floor went to the third floor. They thought maybe people were trapped inside. We activated an advance team. They were ready to respond. Fortunately, the fire service was able -- through thermal imaging to detect it. There was nobody there, and we did not need to send a team. But we an advance team who would respond for urban search and rescue.

This bill says if we activate the team, we utilize the team; we will pay the members of the team. We do not pay during the training. We just could never afford to do that. They train every single month. And my time is up.

The last one just talks about moving the cycle of the billing we do with the -- the power plants so it comes in line with the state fiscal year versus calendar year. Dominion, which runs the power plant, they were operating on a calendar year, towns and cities, state government works July 1st

HB 6285

JAMES J. STRILLACCI: I'm Jim Strillacci. I'm the police chief of West Hartford and I represent the Connecticut Police Chief's Association. I'm here to speak on three bills. Two of them you're very -- Commissioner Thomas already spoke to, and I'm going to agree with him on both of those.

First is 760, on school crisis drills. The bill is going to strengthen the current law by requiring a crisis drill rather than permitting it, which we think is a -- a good idea. We want to have local law enforcement input into the drill format, and we want to participate in those drills. You've done a great thing in this Legislature with fire drills. We've got them internalized. Now our teachers and staff and students can do them in their sleep. And we don't lose any kids to fires, and that's a good thing.

Unfortunately, in this country, there's been a series of shootings in schools and other such emergencies. We've lost 164 people to in-school shootings in the United States. So we would be remiss if we didn't plan for it. We want to raise our staff -- both school staff and police and other emergency staff to a level of awareness where they can automatically handle a lockdown or an evacuation if it's needed to protect our kids. This will organize our response and we'll protect our children for generations to come, and we support it.

We also like 761, on the Enhanced 9-1-1 Service Database. We've got some great technology available out there to help emergency services to notify our citizens expeditiously of emergencies. If you got a fuel spill or a hazmat release, you want to do

an evacuation. If there's some other natural disaster that requires us to get the word out to the public, if you've got a fugitive on the loose in the neighborhood, a missing child, an Alzheimer's patient, all you need to do is program one of these devices and it will dial to any particular list of people. You can tie into a map, circle a radius on the map, and have it contact everybody, if you have the proper information. There's a saying in computers: Garbage in, garbage out. You need an up-to-date database.

And in a capital region we've been buying a product that will do this, but we are stymied by the lack of fresh information. We need to go out buy, on an annual basis, the -- the list of subscribers. And, again, people do move during the course of a year. You don't want to be notifying the old homeowner when the new homeowner needs to get out of the house in a hurry. So this will help us tie into the existing current monthly refreshed 9-1-1 database for a good cause. Now the law didn't anticipate this technology when it was enacted. We need to catch it up with the progress of science -- of science and I hope you will support it.

Last, we want to comment on 6285, fingerprint collection. We are concerned about this. The bill would prohibit police departments from limiting their fingerprint service to its communities residence. Now, I have sympathy for people who can't get service. My department will take anybody. You come in you put your fingers on the -- in the ink and we'll take your fingerprints. But in this budget climate, with all of our towns facing economic crisis, everybody wondering whether the -- the state is going to cut their budgets, everybody looking for a tax freeze,



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
**DEPARTMENT OF**  
**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND HOMELAND SECURITY**



**Public Hearing – February 3, 2009**  
 Public Safety and Security Committee

T 1

**Testimony Submitted by:**

Commissioner James M. Thomas  
 Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security

Good Morning Senator Stillman, Representative Dargan and members of the Public Safety and Security Committee. Thank you for this opportunity to comment on three bills before you today.

The first bill I would like to comment on is SB 760- AAC Crisis Response Drills and Fire Drills.

This bill would require local and regional boards of education to conduct a crisis response drill, in lieu of a fire drill, once every three months.

The Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security believes school security will be greatly enhanced by regularly exercising crisis response plans. These exercises will better prepare schools to handle any emergency situation.

The second bill I would like to comment on is SB 761- AAC An Enhanced 9-1-1 Service Database.

A number of municipalities have purchased emergency notification systems to communicate with their citizens in the event of an emergency. This bill would allow the state's municipalities and the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) to access the enhanced 9-1-1 database, free of charge, providing the most up to date information available for use with these emergency notification systems.

This use of the current 9-1-1 database will greatly enhance a municipality's ability to protect the safety of its residents by providing vital notifications during an emergency.

The last bill I would like to comment on is SB 762- AAC Mutual Aid or Mobile Support Units and Nuclear Safety Emergency Preparedness Program Plans.

This bill clarifies the application of certain sections of Title 28 when civil preparedness forces are ordered to duty by the Governor or the Commissioner of DEMHS.

The bill also changes the submittal date from November 1<sup>st</sup> to May 1<sup>st</sup> and the approval date from December 1<sup>st</sup> to June 1<sup>st</sup> for the nuclear safety emergency preparedness program plan. This would allow towns and state agencies to complete necessary budget work before the submittal of the plan.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of these three pieces of legislation.



## CONNECTICUT POLICE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

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Testimony to the Committee on Public Safety  
February 3, 2009

T1

**Chiefs Anthony Salvatore & James Strillacci, Connecticut Police Chiefs Association**

We support **SB #760, AAC School Crisis Response Drills and Fire Drills**. The bill strengthens CGS 10-231, by requiring a crisis drill every three months, rather than permitting it. It also provides for local law-enforcement input in the drill format and participation in the drill itself.

Years of mandatory fire drills have made fatal school fires as rare as polio. A horrendous series of school shootings demands an organized, trained response. This bill will help.

We support **SB #761, AA Creating an Enhanced 9-1-1 Service Database**. Technology exists to allow emergency services to notify great numbers of citizens expeditiously. This technology can be used to speed evacuation of an area facing a natural or man-made disaster, to instruct citizens to shelter in place against a chemical spill, to enlist aid in finding a missing child, an Alzheimer's patient, or a fugitive.

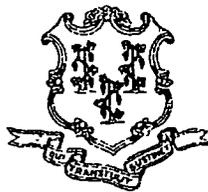
Effectiveness of such a system depends on an up-to-date database of telephone customers, such as is maintained for 9-1-1 service. Current law did not anticipate its use for a notification system; this bill will bring the law abreast of today's technology.

The bill has the potential to save many lives, and we hope you will approve it.

We oppose **HB 6285, AAC Fingerprint Collection**, which would prohibit a police department from limiting fingerprint service to its community's residents. In the current economy all municipalities are strapped for cash and most departments are being asked to cut expenses. Agencies must be free to provide or to limit non-emergency services as its budget requires.

We believe that any individual needing fingerprints should seek the services of the local department or state police troop which serves the town in which he lives or works. As a citizen or a taxpayer, he is free to express satisfaction with service, or the lack thereof, to the appropriate elected or appointed officials.

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STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERJohn A. Danaher III  
CommissionerLieutenant Edwin S. Henion  
Chief of Staff

February 3, 2009

Rep. Stephen Dargan, Co-Chairman  
 Sen. Andrea Stillman, Co-Chairman  
 Public Safety and Security Committee  
 Legislative Office Building  
 Hartford, CT 06106

**SB 761 AN ACT CONCERNING AN ENHANCED 9-1-1 SERVICE DATABASE*****The Department of Public Safety supports this bill.***

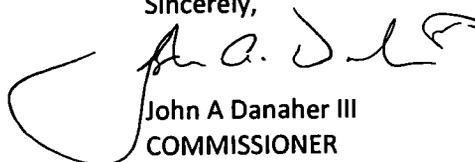
Daily news coverage affirms that we live in a dangerous world. There are numerous public safety emergencies that require that the public be notified of imminent or pending dangers. Information to the public regarding evacuations or other actions to take is critical to the protection of the public. Along with media broadcasts, emergency notification systems, also known as "Reverse 9-1-1", provide public safety answering points with the ability to call residents and deliver short messages regarding emergency events.

This technology is deployed in many Connecticut communities and is expected to be available statewide in the near future. An essential component of any phone based emergency notification system is the list of wire line phone numbers, a database, used to place the calls. While all currently deployed emergency notification systems are using databases that are commercially available, those phone number databases are often deficient in that they are out of date and do not contain unlisted numbers.

Additionally, the providers of locally owned emergency notification systems must pay for those databases on an annual basis. The Enhanced 9-1-1 database, used to process the delivery of 9-1-1 calls in Connecticut, contains unlisted numbers and is, by regulation, updated almost daily by those telephone carriers who provide service to Connecticut. The Enhanced 9-1-1 database is currently protected by state law from use for any other purpose other than the receipt and processing of a 9-1-1 call.

This legislation will allow the use of the data base for emergency notification systems in the event of a life threatening emergency. The database will be provided on a monthly basis, to the state's 9-1-1 public safety answering points at no cost. This will allow those centers to notify as many residents as possible in the event of an emergency.

Sincerely,



John A Danaher III  
COMMISSIONER  
Department of Public Safety



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY FOR  
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES  
60B WESTON STREET, HARTFORD, CT 06120-1551

JAMES D. McGAUGHEY  
Executive Director

Phone: 1/860-297-4307  
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Testimony of the Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities  
Before The Joint Committee on Public Safety

Submitted by: James D. McGaughey  
Executive Director

February 3, 2009

Good morning, and thank you for receiving our Office's comments on Raised Bill No. 761, AN ACT CONCERNING AN ENHANCED 9-1-1 SERVICE DATABASE.

This bill would allow use of subscriber information from the State's Enhanced 9-1-1 database by municipalities that have or acquire telephone – based emergency notification systems. Emergency notification systems are sometimes referred to as "Reverse 9-1-1", which is actually the trade name of one such system. Using sophisticated technology, these systems can, in a very short period of time, generate thousands of individual telephone calls to targeted geographic areas, carrying warning messages and specific instructions. (They can also send messages in text form to deaf and hard of hearing people via TTYs and other text devices, provided those individuals have pre-registered.) As used in the bill, the term "subscriber information" is defined to mean only the names, addresses and telephone numbers contained in the E 9-1-1 provider's database. The confidentiality of this information is expressly protected by language limiting the purposes for which it can be used, and by expressly exempting it from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act.

Our Office supports the direction of this bill and hopes to see the scope and utility of this program grow over time. During the past several years we have served on a committee convened by the Department of Public Safety's Office of Statewide Emergency Telecommunications to develop a plan to revitalize the 9-1-1 "functional/special needs" database. That database contains information that individuals who have pre-registered want emergency responders to know about their particular functional needs for assistance. When an individual 9-1-1 call is placed by a "special needs" registrant, basic information about the registrant's disability appears on the 9-1-1 dispatcher's computer screen, and can be shared with first responders. Unfortunately, much of the information currently in the database is old, and too few people with needs are currently choosing to register. A renewed effort to publicize and maintain this feature is much needed.

Assuming that appropriate limitations and safeguards are written into law, information from a revitalized Functional/Special Needs database could prove useful to municipal emergency managers who are responsible for preparedness planning. I have recently met with a number of municipal emergency management directors about ways to better include people with disabilities in local and regional emergency planning. Many of them have so little information about the needs of people with disabilities in their towns that it is difficult for them to properly discharge their planning responsibilities. If we could revitalize the 9-1-1 Functional/Special Needs registration program and surround it with the necessary legal framework to protect the confidentiality of registrants' information, its database could be shared with and used by local emergency management directors.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. Our Office will continue to work to ensuring that emergency responses and planning include people with disabilities. If there are any questions that I can help answer, please feel free to contact me.

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THE VOICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

TESTIMONY  
 OF THE  
 CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES  
 TO THE  
 PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE

February 3, 2009

CCM is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local governments - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 93% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate this opportunity to testify before this joint committee on issues of concern to towns and cities.

**CCM supports Raised Bill 761 "An Act Concerning an Enhanced 9-1-1 Service Database"**

Raised Bill 761 would allow towns and cities access, via their public safety answering points, to electronic copies of the most current 9-1-1 service databases (updated monthly), per a memorandum of understanding and free of charge. These updated databases are used to, among other things, enhance local emergency notification systems, commonly referred to as "Reverse 9-1-1" systems.

Eliminating burdens when accessing vital information is key to an effective and efficient emergency response. It is imperative that local first responders – the personnel usually first on the scene – are equipped, without obstacle, with the most current data regarding the citizens they vow to protect.

Raised Bill 761 is a common sense proposal to keep hometown Connecticut safe.

CCM urges the committee to favorably report Raised Bill 761.



If you have any questions, please call Bob Labanara or Gian-Carl Casa of CCM, at (203) 498-3000