

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 5351

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to upgrade existing public safety answering points 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

NOVEMBER 20, 2024

Mr. BARRASSO 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 public safety answering points 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 “Safer Parks Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

6 In this Act:

1 (1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-
2 GRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Con-
3 gress” means—

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

6 (B) the Committee on Commerce, Science,
7 and Transportation of the Senate;

8 (C) the Committee on Natural Resources
9 of the House of Representatives; and

10 (D) the Committee on Energy and Com-
11 merce of the House of Representatives.

12 (2) NEXT GENERATION 9–1–1 SYSTEM.—The
13 term “Next Generation 9–1–1 system” has the
14 meaning given the term “Next Generation 9–1–1
15 services” in section 158(e) of the National Tele-
16 communications and Information Administration Or-
17 ganization Act (47 U.S.C. 942(e)).

18 (3) PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINT.—The
19 term “public safety answering point” has the mean-
20 ing given the term in section 222(h) of the Commu-
21 nications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 222(h)).

22 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
23 the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Di-
24 rector of the National Park Service.

1 **SEC. 3. ASSESSMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING**
2 **POINTS LOCATED IN UNITS OF THE NA-**
3 **TIONAL PARK SYSTEM.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
5 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall complete
6 an assessment of public safety answering points located
7 in units of the National Park System to identify—

8 (1) the implementation status of Next Genera-
9 tion 9–1–1 systems at existing public safety answer-
10 ing points in units of the National Park System;

11 (2) estimated costs to purchase Next Genera-
12 tion 9–1–1 systems for public safety answering
13 points in units of the National Park System that
14 have not begun to implement Next Generation 9–1–
15 1 systems; and

16 (3) estimated costs to maintain and operate
17 Next Generation 9–1–1 systems across all public
18 safety answering points in units of the National
19 Park System.

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

24 (1) describing the results of the assessment;
25 and

1 (2) identifying issues that may affect the imple-
 2 mentation of Next Generation 9–1–1 systems across
 3 all public safety answering points in units of the Na-
 4 tional Park System, including—

5 (A) jurisdictional issues;

6 (B) technological issues;

7 (C) issues relating to relevant authorities;

8 and

9 (D) issues relating to legal agreements.

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

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
 14 date on which the report under section 3(b) is submitted,
 15 the Secretary shall develop a plan, based on the results
 16 of the assessment completed under section 3(a) and sub-
 17 ject to subsection (c), to install Next Generation 9–1–1
 18 systems at identified public safety answering points in
 19 units of the National Park System.

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

22 (1) State and local emergency operations offi-
 23 cials to ensure interoperability of the Next Genera-
 24 tion 9–1–1 systems;

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

4 (3) relevant Federal agencies, including—

5 (A) the National Telecommunications and
6 Information Administration;

7 (B) the National Highway Traffic Safety
8 Administration; and

9 (C) the Federal Communications Commis-
10 sion.

11 (c) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), a
12 plan developed under that subsection shall not be required
13 to address public safety answering points in any unit of
14 the National Park System at which the superintendent of
15 the unit of the National Park System determines that suf-
16 ficient Next Generation 9–1–1 systems have already been
17 installed or are being installed, as applicable.

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