

911 Legislation Providing Access to ACJIS Network

Each 911 center currently pays for and establishes its own network for the acceptance and administration of calls. In most cases the networks are independent and duplicative because there is no statewide method for the districts to combine their resources and efforts in this area.

As a result, it is difficult (if not impossible) for districts to work together in answering calls in times of crisis or as a result of disaster activities.

This legislation would authorize the Alabama Criminal Justice Information Center and the 911 districts to work together in the utilization of the existing ACJIC network as a possible statewide connection for any 911 district that might choose to participate. The legislation provides for ACJIC and the districts to enter into a contract for this service, including the payment of a fee by the districts to the ACJIC for this service.

The legislation also includes language requested by the Alabama Department of Homeland Security, allowing that agency to also utilize the ACJIC network.

- ACJIC operates a secure data network that is connected to most Police Departments and Sheriff's Offices. Many 9-1-1 Centers are located in Police Departments and Sheriff's Offices.
- It would be very cost effective to install and maintain one network that serves ACJIC as well as 9-1-1. The two services are compatible and both are mission critical.
- Even when a 9-1-1 Center (PSAP) is not located with a law enforcement agency, it will greatly improve communications to have all 9-1-1 and law enforcement agencies on a common network.
- 9-1-1 Districts currently pay millions of dollars per year for network services and these existing funds can be used to pay our share of network costs. This should result in a savings for the 9-1-1 Districts which will delay the need for rate increases.
- A network that supports both ACJIC and 9-1-1 can be more redundant and have better backup capabilities since we will be sharing expenses. This is critical after a hurricane strike, terrorist attack, or natural disaster causes interruption in normal communications networks.
- A high-speed data network to support public safety in Alabama will put us in a much stronger position to handle day to day events as well as the "big ones" when they come along.