

**SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. 48**

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 30, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator MICHAEL L. TESTA, JR.

District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Sarlo

SYNOPSIS

Urges Governor and Legislature to fully fund 9-1-1 system.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/10/2020)

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1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** urging the Governor and Legislature
2 to fully fund the 9-1-1 system.

3

4 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey collects roughly \$124 million annually in fees
5 from landline and cellular telephone customers, and those fees are
6 placed in the "9-1-1 System and Emergency Response Trust Fund
7 Account" (fund); and

8 **WHEREAS**, Monies in the fund are used to fund certain emergency
9 management activities, including the 9-1-1 system; and

10 **WHEREAS**, The State has allocated only 11 percent of the monies in
11 the fund to counties and municipalities to operate the 9-1-1 system;
12 and

13 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey has failed to provide sufficient funding for
14 counties and municipalities to operate the 9-1-1 system and has
15 instead diverted an inordinate share of monies from the fund to the
16 State's Department of Law and Public Safety; and

17 **WHEREAS**, As a result, counties and municipalities, which handle the
18 vast majority of 9-1-1 emergency service requests, have been
19 forced to rely on local property tax monies in order to maintain,
20 operate, and improve the 9-1-1 system; and

21 **WHEREAS**, Counties and municipalities require monies from the fund
22 to maintain and operate the 9-1-1 system and to improve the system
23 with the latest technologies in order to ensure the safety of their
24 constituents; and

25 **WHEREAS**, If monies from the fund continue to be diverted away from
26 counties and municipalities, local governments may be forced to
27 either raise property taxes or cut essential services in order to
28 operate the 9-1-1 system; and

29 **WHEREAS**, The Governor and Legislature should restore monies to
30 the fund to allow counties and municipalities to properly maintain,
31 operate, and continue to improve the 9-1-1 system; now, therefore,

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33 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Senate of the State of New Jersey (the
34 General Assembly concurring):

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36 1. The Legislature respectfully urges the Governor to take all
37 necessary steps to allocate monies from the "9-1-1 System and
38 Emergency Response Trust Fund Account" to counties and
39 municipalities so that the 9-1-1 system can be properly maintained,
40 operated, and improved.

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42 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
43 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly or the
44 Secretary of the Senate to the Governor of the State of New Jersey.

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STATEMENT

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This concurrent resolution urges the Governor and Legislature to fully fund the 9-1-1 system.

New Jersey collects roughly \$124 million annually in fees from landline and cellular telephone customers, and those fees are placed in the "9-1-1 System and Emergency Response Trust Fund Account" (fund). Monies in the fund are used to fund certain emergency management activities, including the 9-1-1 system.

The State has allocated only 11 percent of the monies in the fund to counties and municipalities to operate the 9-1-1 system. New Jersey has failed to provide sufficient funding for counties and municipalities to operate the 9-1-1 system and has instead diverted an inordinate share of monies from the fund to the State's Department of Law of Law and Public Safety. As a result, counties and municipalities, which handle the vast majority of 9-1-1 emergency service requests, have been forced to rely on local property tax monies in order to maintain, operate, and improve the 9-1-1 system.

Counties and municipalities require monies from the fund to maintain and operate the 9-1-1 system and to improve the system with the latest technologies in order to ensure the safety of their constituents. If monies from the fund continue to be diverted away from counties and municipalities, local governments may be forced to either raise property taxes or cut essential services in order to operate the 9-1-1 system.