

[~118H1784]

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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To amend the National Telecommunications and Information Administration Organization Act to provide for further deployment and coordination of Next Generation 9–1–1, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. HUDSON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend the National Telecommunications and Information Administration Organization Act to provide for further deployment and coordination of Next Generation 9–1–1, 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 “Next Generation 9–
5 1–1 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FURTHER DEPLOYMENT AND COORDINATION OF**
2 **NEXT GENERATION 9-1-1.**

3 Part C of the National Telecommunications and In-
4 formation Administration Organization Act is amended by
5 adding at the end the following:

6 **“SEC. 159. COORDINATION OF NEXT GENERATION 9-1-1 IM-**
7 **PLEMENTATION.**

8 “(a) DUTIES OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY WITH RE-
9 SPECT TO NEXT GENERATION 9-1-1.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Assistant Secretary,
11 after consulting with the Administrator, shall—

12 “(A) take actions, in coordination with
13 State points of contact described under sub-
14 section (c)(3)(A)(ii) as applicable, to improve
15 coordination and communication with respect to
16 the implementation of Next Generation 9-1-1;

17 “(B) develop, collect, and disseminate in-
18 formation concerning the practices, procedures,
19 and technology used in the implementation of
20 Next Generation 9-1-1;

21 “(C) advise and assist eligible entities in
22 the preparation of implementation plans re-
23 quired under subsection (c)(3)(A)(iii);

24 “(D) provide technical assistance to eligible
25 entities provided a grant under subsection (c) in

1 support of efforts to explore efficiencies related
2 to Next Generation 9–1–1;

3 “(E) review and approve or disapprove ap-
4 plications for grants under subsection (c); and

5 “(F) oversee the use of funds provided by
6 such grants in fulfilling such implementation
7 plans.

8 “(2) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than Octo-
9 ber 1, 2026, and each year thereafter until funds
10 made available to make grants under subsection (c)
11 are no longer available to be expended, the Assistant
12 Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the
13 activities conducted by the Assistant Secretary under
14 paragraph (1) in the year preceding the submission
15 of the report.

16 “(3) ASSISTANCE.—The Assistant Secretary
17 may seek the assistance of the Administrator in car-
18 rying out the duties described in subparagraphs (A)
19 through (D) of paragraph (1) as the Assistant Sec-
20 retary determines necessary.

21 “(b) ADDITIONAL DUTIES.—

22 “(1) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

23 “(A) DEVELOPMENT.—The Assistant Sec-
24 retary, after consulting with the Administrator,
25 shall develop a management plan for the grant

1 program established under this section, includ-
2 ing by developing—

3 “(i) plans related to the organiza-
4 tional structure of such program; and

5 “(ii) funding profiles for each fiscal
6 year of the duration of such program.

7 “(B) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not
8 later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
9 ment of this section, the Assistant Secretary
10 shall—

11 “(i) submit the management plan de-
12 veloped under subparagraph (A) to—

13 “(I) the Committees on Energy
14 and Commerce and Appropriations of
15 the House of Representatives; and

16 “(II) the Committees on Com-
17 merce, Science, and Transportation
18 and Appropriations of the Senate;

19 “(ii) publish the management plan on
20 the website of the National Telecommuni-
21 cations and Information Administration;
22 and

23 “(iii) provide the management plan to
24 the Administrator for the purpose of pub-
25 lishing the management plan on the

1 website of the National Highway Traffic
2 Safety Administration.

3 “(2) MODIFICATION OF PLAN.—

4 “(A) MODIFICATION.—The Assistant Sec-
5 retary, after consulting with the Administrator,
6 may modify the management plan developed
7 under paragraph (1)(A).

8 “(B) SUBMISSION.—Not later than 90
9 days after the plan is modified under subpara-
10 graph (A), the Assistant Secretary shall—

11 “(i) submit the modified plan to—

12 “(I) the Committees on Energy
13 and Commerce and Appropriations of
14 the House of Representatives; and

15 “(II) the Committees on Com-
16 merce, Science, and Transportation
17 and Appropriations of the Senate;

18 “(ii) publish the modified plan on the
19 website of the National Telecommuni-
20 cations and Information Administration;
21 and

22 “(iii) provide the modified plan to the
23 Administrator for the purpose of pub-
24 lishing the modified plan on the website of

1 the National Highway Traffic Safety Ad-
2 ministration.

3 “(c) NEXT GENERATION 9–1–1 IMPLEMENTATION
4 GRANTS.—

5 “(1) GRANTS.—The Assistant Secretary shall
6 provide grants to eligible entities for—

7 “(A) implementing Next Generation 9–1–
8 1;

9 “(B) maintaining Next Generation 9–1–1;

10 “(C) training directly related to imple-
11 menting, maintaining, and operating Next Gen-
12 eration 9–1–1 if the cost related to the training
13 does not exceed—

14 “(i) 3 percent of the total grant
15 award for eligible entities that are not
16 Tribes; and

17 “(ii) 5 percent of the total grant
18 award for eligible entities that are Tribes;

19 “(D) public outreach and education on how
20 the public can best use Next Generation 9–1–
21 1 and the capabilities and usefulness of Next
22 Generation 9–1–1;

23 “(E) administrative costs associated with
24 planning of Next Generation 9–1–1, including
25 any cost related to planning for and preparing

1 an application and related materials as required
2 by this subsection, if—

3 “(i) the cost is fully documented in
4 materials submitted to the Assistant Sec-
5 retary; and

6 “(ii) the cost is reasonable, necessary,
7 and does not exceed—

8 “(I) 1 percent of the total grant
9 award for eligible entities that are not
10 Tribes; and

11 “(II) 2 percent of the total grant
12 award for eligible entities that are
13 Tribes; and

14 “(F) costs associated with implementing
15 cybersecurity measures at emergency commu-
16 nications centers or with respect to Next Gen-
17 eration 9–1–1.

18 “(2) APPLICATION.—In providing grants under
19 paragraph (1), the Assistant Secretary, after con-
20 sulting with the Administrator, shall require an eligi-
21 ble entity to submit to the Assistant Secretary an
22 application, at the time and in the manner deter-
23 mined by the Assistant Secretary, and containing
24 the certification required by paragraph (3).

1 “(3) COORDINATION REQUIRED.—Each eligible
2 entity shall include in the application required by
3 paragraph (2) a certification that—

4 “(A) in the case of an eligible entity that
5 is a State, the entity—

6 “(i) has coordinated the application
7 with the emergency communications cen-
8 ters located within the jurisdiction of the
9 entity;

10 “(ii) has designated a single officer or
11 governmental body to serve as the State
12 point of contact to coordinate the imple-
13 mentation of Next Generation 9–1–1 for
14 that State, except that such designation
15 need not vest such officer or governmental
16 body with direct legal authority to imple-
17 ment Next Generation 9–1–1 or to manage
18 emergency communications operations; and

19 “(iii) has developed and submitted a
20 plan for the coordination and implementa-
21 tion of Next Generation 9–1–1 that—

22 “(I) ensures interoperability by
23 requiring the use of commonly accept-
24 ed standards;

25 “(II) ensures reliability;

1 “(III) enables emergency commu-
2 nications centers to process, analyze,
3 and store multimedia, data, and other
4 information;

5 “(IV) incorporates cybersecurity
6 tools, including intrusion detection
7 and prevention measures;

8 “(V) includes strategies for co-
9 ordinating cybersecurity information
10 sharing between Federal, State, Trib-
11 al, and local government partners;

12 “(VI) uses open and competitive
13 request for proposal processes, includ-
14 ing through shared government pro-
15 curement vehicles, for deployment of
16 Next Generation 9–1–1;

17 “(VII) documents how input was
18 received and accounted for from rel-
19 evant rural and urban emergency
20 communications centers, regional au-
21 thorities, local authorities, and Tribal
22 authorities;

23 “(VIII) includes a governance
24 body or bodies, either by creation of
25 new, or use of existing, body or bod-

1 ies, for the development and deploy-
2 ment of Next Generation 9–1–1
3 that—

4 “(aa) ensures full notice and
5 opportunity for participation by
6 relevant stakeholders; and

7 “(bb) consults and coordi-
8 nates with the State point of con-
9 tact required by clause (ii);

10 “(IX) creates efficiencies related
11 to Next Generation 9–1–1 functions,
12 including cybersecurity and the
13 virtualization and sharing of infra-
14 structure, equipment, and services;
15 and

16 “(X) utilizes an effective, com-
17 petitive approach to establishing au-
18 thentication, credentialing, secure con-
19 nections, and access in deploying Next
20 Generation 9–1–1, including by—

21 “(aa) requiring certificate
22 authorities to be capable of cross-
23 certification with other authori-
24 ties;

1 “(bb) avoiding risk of a sin-
2 gle point of failure or vulner-
3 ability; and

4 “(cc) adhering to Federal
5 agency best practices such as
6 those promulgated by the Na-
7 tional Institute of Standards and
8 Technology; and

9 “(B) in the case of an eligible entity that
10 is a Tribe, the Tribe has complied with clauses
11 (i) and (iii) of subparagraph (A).

12 “(4) CRITERIA.—

13 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year
14 after the date of the enactment of this section,
15 the Assistant Secretary, after consulting with
16 the Administrator, shall issue rules, after pro-
17 viding the public with notice and an opportunity
18 to comment, prescribing the criteria for select-
19 ing eligible entities for grants under this sub-
20 section.

21 “(B) REQUIREMENTS.—The criteria
22 shall—

23 “(i) include performance requirements
24 and a schedule for completion of any

1 project to be financed by a grant under
2 this subsection; and

3 “(ii) specifically permit regional or
4 multi-State applications for funds.

5 “(C) UPDATES.—The Assistant Secretary
6 shall update such rules as necessary.

7 “(5) GRANT CERTIFICATIONS.—Each eligible
8 entity shall certify to the Assistant Secretary at the
9 time of application for a grant under this subsection,
10 and each eligible entity that receives such a grant
11 shall certify to the Assistant Secretary annually
12 thereafter during any period of time the funds from
13 the grant are available to the eligible entity, that—

14 “(A) beginning on the date that is 180
15 days before the date on which the application is
16 filed, no portion of any 9–1–1 fee or charge im-
17 posed by the eligible entity (or in the case that
18 the eligible entity is not a State or Tribe, any
19 State or taxing jurisdiction within which the eli-
20 gible entity will carry out, or is carrying out,
21 activities using grant funds) are obligated or
22 expended for a purpose or function not des-
23 ignated under the rules issued pursuant to sec-
24 tion 6(f)(3) of the Wireless Communications
25 and Public Safety Act of 1999 (47 U.S.C.

1 615a–1(f)(3)) (as such rules are in effect on the
2 date on which the eligible entity makes the cer-
3 tification) as acceptable;

4 “(B) any funds received by the eligible en-
5 tity will be used, consistent with paragraph (1),
6 to support the deployment of Next Generation
7 9–1–1 that ensures reliability and interoper-
8 ability, by requiring the use of commonly ac-
9 cepted standards;

10 “(C) the eligible entity (or in the case that
11 the eligible entity is not a State or Tribe, any
12 State or taxing jurisdiction within which the eli-
13 gible entity will carry out or is carrying out ac-
14 tivities using grant funds) has established, or
15 has committed to establish not later than 3
16 years following the date on which the grant
17 funds are distributed to the eligible entity—

18 “(i) a sustainable funding mechanism
19 for Next Generation 9–1–1; and

20 “(ii) effective cybersecurity resources
21 for Next Generation 9–1–1;

22 “(D) the eligible entity will promote inter-
23 operability between emergency communications
24 centers deploying Next Generation 9–1–1 and
25 emergency response providers, including users

1 of the nationwide public safety broadband net-
2 work;

3 “(E) the eligible entity has or will take
4 steps to coordinate with adjoining States and
5 Tribes to establish and maintain Next Genera-
6 tion 9–1–1; and

7 “(F) the eligible entity has developed a
8 plan for public outreach and education on how
9 the public can best use Next Generation 9–1–
10 1 and on the capabilities and usefulness of Next
11 Generation 9–1–1.

12 “(6) CONDITION OF GRANT.—Each eligible en-
13 tity shall agree, as a condition of receipt of a grant
14 under this subsection, that if any State or taxing ju-
15 risdiction within which the eligible entity will carry
16 out activities using grant funds fails to comply with
17 a certification required under paragraph (5), during
18 any period of time during which the funds from the
19 grant are available to the eligible entity, all of the
20 funds from such grant shall be returned to the As-
21 sistant Secretary.

22 “(7) PENALTY FOR PROVIDING FALSE INFOR-
23 MATION.—Any eligible entity that provides a certifi-
24 cation under paragraph (5) knowing that the infor-
25 mation provided in the certification was false shall—

1 “(A) not be eligible to receive the grant
2 under this subsection;

3 “(B) return any grant awarded under this
4 subsection; and

5 “(C) not be eligible to receive any subse-
6 quent grants under this subsection.

7 “(8) PROHIBITION.—Grant funds provided
8 under this subsection may not be used—

9 “(A) to support any activity of the First
10 Responder Network Authority; or

11 “(B) to make any payments to a person
12 who has been, for reasons of national security,
13 prohibited by any entity of the Federal Govern-
14 ment from bidding on a contract, participating
15 in an auction, or receiving a grant.

16 “(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section and sections 160
17 and 161:

18 “(1) 9–1–1 FEE OR CHARGE.—The term ‘9–1–
19 1 fee or charge’ has the meaning given such term in
20 section 6(f)(3)(D) of the Wireless Communications
21 and Public Safety Act of 1999 (47 U.S.C. 615a–
22 1(f)(3)(D)).

23 “(2) 9–1–1 REQUEST FOR EMERGENCY ASSIST-
24 ANCE.—The term ‘9–1–1 request for emergency as-
25 sistance’ means a communication, such as voice,

1 text, picture, multimedia, or any other type of data
2 that is sent to an emergency communications center
3 for the purpose of requesting emergency assistance.

4 “(3) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ‘Adminis-
5 trator’ means the Administrator of the National
6 Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

7 “(4) COMMONLY ACCEPTED STANDARDS.—The
8 term ‘commonly accepted standards’ means the tech-
9 nical standards followed by the communications in-
10 dustry for network, device, and Internet Protocol
11 connectivity that—

12 “(A) enable interoperability; and

13 “(B) are—

14 “(i) developed and approved by a
15 standards development organization that is
16 accredited by an American standards body
17 (such as the American National Standards
18 Institute) or an equivalent international
19 standards body in a process—

20 “(I) that is open to the public,
21 including open for participation by
22 any person; and

23 “(II) provides for a conflict reso-
24 lution process;

1 “(ii) subject to an open comment and
2 input process before being finalized by the
3 standards development organization;

4 “(iii) consensus-based; and

5 “(iv) made publicly available once ap-
6 proved.

7 “(5) COST RELATED TO THE TRAINING.—The
8 term ‘cost related to the training’ means—

9 “(A) actual wages incurred for travel and
10 attendance, including any necessary overtime
11 pay and backfill wage;

12 “(B) travel expenses;

13 “(C) instructor expenses; or

14 “(D) facility costs and training materials.

15 “(6) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-
16 tity’—

17 “(A) means—

18 “(i) a State or a Tribe; or

19 “(ii) an entity, including a public au-
20 thority, board, or commission, established
21 by one or more entities described in clause
22 (i); and

23 “(B) does not include any entity that has
24 failed to submit the certifications required
25 under subsection (c)(5).

1 “(7) EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CENTER.—

2 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘emergency
3 communications center’ means—

4 “(i) a facility that—

5 “(I) is designated to receive a 9–
6 1–1 request for emergency assistance;
7 and

8 “(II) performs one or more of the
9 functions described in subparagraph
10 (B); or

11 “(ii) a public safety answering point,
12 as defined in section 222 of the Commu-
13 nications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 222).

14 “(B) FUNCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The func-
15 tions described in this subparagraph are the fol-
16 lowing:

17 “(i) Processing and analyzing 9–1–1
18 requests for emergency assistance and in-
19 formation and data related to such re-
20 quests.

21 “(ii) Dispatching appropriate emer-
22 gency response providers.

23 “(iii) Transferring or exchanging 9–
24 1–1 requests for emergency assistance and
25 information and data related to such re-

1 quests with one or more other emergency
2 communications centers and emergency re-
3 sponse providers.

4 “(iv) Analyzing any communications
5 received from emergency response pro-
6 viders.

7 “(v) Supporting incident command
8 functions.

9 “(8) EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROVIDER.—The
10 term ‘emergency response provider’ has the meaning
11 given that term under section 2 of the Homeland Se-
12 curity Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101).

13 “(9) FIRST RESPONDER NETWORK AUTHOR-
14 ITY.—The term ‘First Responder Network Author-
15 ity’ means the authority established under section
16 6204 of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Cre-
17 ation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1424).

18 “(10) INTEROPERABILITY.—The term ‘inter-
19 operability’ means the capability of emergency com-
20 munications centers to receive 9–1–1 requests for
21 emergency assistance and information and data re-
22 lated to such requests, such as location information
23 and callback numbers from a person initiating the
24 request, then process and share the 9–1–1 requests
25 for emergency assistance and information and data

1 related to such requests with other emergency com-
2 munications centers and emergency response pro-
3 viders without the need for proprietary interfaces
4 and regardless of jurisdiction, equipment, device,
5 software, service provider, or other relevant factors.

6 “(11) NATIONWIDE PUBLIC SAFETY
7 BROADBAND NETWORK.—The term ‘nationwide pub-
8 lic safety broadband network’ has the meaning given
9 the term in section 6001 of the Middle Class Tax
10 Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C.
11 1401).

12 “(12) NEXT GENERATION 9–1–1.—The term
13 ‘Next Generation 9–1–1’ means an Internet Pro-
14 tocol-based system that—

15 “(A) ensures interoperability;

16 “(B) is secure;

17 “(C) employs commonly accepted stand-
18 ards;

19 “(D) enables emergency communications
20 centers to receive, process, and analyze all types
21 of 9–1–1 requests for emergency assistance;

22 “(E) acquires and integrates additional in-
23 formation useful to handling 9–1–1 requests for
24 emergency assistance; and

1 “(F) supports sharing information related
2 to 9–1–1 requests for emergency assistance
3 among emergency communications centers and
4 emergency response providers.

5 “(13) RELIABILITY.—The term ‘reliability’
6 means the employment of sufficient measures to en-
7 sure the ongoing operation of Next Generation 9–1–
8 1 including through the use of geo-diverse, device-
9 and network-agnostic elements that provide more
10 than one route between end points with no common
11 points where a single failure at that point would
12 cause all to fail.

13 “(14) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means any
14 State of the United States, the District of Columbia,
15 Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, the United
16 States Virgin Islands, the Northern Mariana Is-
17 lands, and any other territory or possession of the
18 United States.

19 “(15) SUSTAINABLE FUNDING MECHANISM.—
20 The term ‘sustainable funding mechanism’ means a
21 funding mechanism that provides adequate revenues
22 to cover ongoing expenses, including operations,
23 maintenance, and upgrades.

24 “(16) TRIBE.—The term ‘Tribe’ has the mean-
25 ing given to the term ‘Indian Tribe’ in section 4(e)

1 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education As-
2 sistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304(e)).

3 **“SEC. 160. ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONWIDE NEXT GEN-**
4 **ERATION 9-1-1 CYBERSECURITY CENTER.**

5 “The Assistant Secretary, after consulting with the
6 Administrator and the Director of the Cybersecurity and
7 Infrastructure Security Agency of the Department of
8 Homeland Security, shall establish a Next Generation 9–
9 1–1 Cybersecurity Center to coordinate with State, local,
10 and regional governments on the sharing of cybersecurity
11 information about, the analysis of cybersecurity threats to,
12 and guidelines for strategies to detect and prevent cyberse-
13 curity intrusions relating to Next Generation 9–1–1.

14 **“SEC. 161. NEXT GENERATION 9-1-1 ADVISORY BOARD.**

15 “(a) NEXT GENERATION 9–1–1 ADVISORY BOARD.—

16 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Assistant Sec-
17 retary shall establish a ‘Public Safety Next Genera-
18 tion 9–1–1 Advisory Board’ (in this section referred
19 to as the ‘Board’) to provide recommendations to
20 the Assistant Secretary—

21 “(A) with respect to carrying out the du-
22 ties and responsibilities of the Assistant Sec-
23 retary in issuing the regulations required under
24 section 159(c);

25 “(B) as required by paragraph (7); and

1 “(C) upon request under paragraph (8).

2 “(2) MEMBERSHIP.—

3 “(A) VOTING MEMBERS.—Not later than
4 150 days after the date of the enactment of this
5 section, the Assistant Secretary shall appoint
6 16 public safety members to the Board, of
7 which—

8 “(i) 4 members shall represent local
9 law enforcement officials;

10 “(ii) 4 members shall represent fire
11 and rescue officials;

12 “(iii) 4 members shall represent emer-
13 gency medical service officials; and

14 “(iv) 4 members shall represent 9–1–
15 1 professionals.

16 “(B) DIVERSITY OF MEMBERSHIP.—Mem-
17 bers shall be representatives of States or Tribes
18 and local governments, chosen to reflect geo-
19 graphic and population density differences as
20 well as public safety organizations at the na-
21 tional level across the United States.

22 “(C) EXPERTISE.—All members shall have
23 specific expertise necessary for developing tech-
24 nical requirements under this section, such as
25 technical expertise, and expertise related to

1 public safety communications and 9–1–1 serv-
2 ices.

3 “(D) RANK AND FILE MEMBERS.—In mak-
4 ing the appointments required by subparagraph
5 (A), the Assistant Secretary shall appoint a
6 rank and file member from each of the public
7 safety disciplines listed in clauses (i) through
8 (iv) of subparagraph (A) as a member of the
9 Board and shall select such member from an
10 organization that represents its public safety
11 discipline at the national level.

12 “(3) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT.—

13 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
14 subparagraph (B), members of the Board shall
15 serve for a 3-year term.

16 “(B) REMOVAL FOR CAUSE.—A member of
17 the Board may be removed for cause upon the
18 determination of the Assistant Secretary.

19 “(4) VACANCIES.—Any vacancy in the Board
20 shall be filled in the same manner as the original ap-
21 pointment.

22 “(5) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of
23 the Board shall constitute a quorum.

24 “(6) CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON.—

25 The Board shall select a Chairperson and Vice

1 Chairperson from among the voting members of the
2 Board.

3 “(7) DUTY OF BOARD TO SUBMIT REC-
4 OMMENDATIONS.—Not later than 120 days after all
5 members of the Board are appointed under para-
6 graph (2), the Board shall submit to the Assistant
7 Secretary recommendations for—

8 “(A) deploying Next Generation 9–1–1 in
9 rural and urban areas;

10 “(B) ensuring flexibility in guidance, rules,
11 and grant funding to allow for technology im-
12 provements;

13 “(C) creating efficiencies related to Next
14 Generation 9–1–1, including cybersecurity and
15 the virtualization and sharing of core infra-
16 structure;

17 “(D) enabling effective coordination among
18 State, local, Tribal, and territorial government
19 entities to ensure that the needs of emergency
20 communications centers in both rural and
21 urban areas are taken into account in each im-
22 plementation plan required under section
23 159(c)(3)(A)(iii); and

1 “(E) incorporating existing cybersecurity
2 resources into Next Generation 9–1–1 procure-
3 ment and deployment.

4 “(8) AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL REC-
5 COMMENDATIONS.—Except as provided in paragraphs
6 (1) and (7), the Board may provide recommenda-
7 tions to the Assistant Secretary only upon request of
8 the Assistant Secretary.

9 “(9) DURATION OF AUTHORITY.—The Board
10 shall terminate on the date on which funds made
11 available to make grants under section 159(c) are no
12 longer available to be expended.

13 “(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
14 tion may be construed as limiting the authority of the As-
15 sistant Secretary to seek comment from stakeholders and
16 the public.

17 **“SEC. 162. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

18 “(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be ap-
19 propriated to the Assistant Secretary to carry out sections
20 159, 160, and 161 such sums as may be necessary for
21 fiscal years 2026 through 2030, and such amounts are
22 authorized to remain available until expended.

23 “(b) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Not more than 4
24 percent of any amounts appropriated under subsection (a)

1 may be used for administrative purposes (including car-
2 rying out sections 160 and 161).”.