

Senate Bill 505

By: Senators Robertson of the 29th, Mullis of the 53rd, Albers of the 56th, Miller of the 49th and Kirkpatrick of the 32nd

**AS PASSED**

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Sections 35-8-23, 38-3-181, and 46-5-138.2 of the Official Code of Georgia  
2 Annotated, relating to basic training course for communications officers, definitions relative  
3 to emergency communications authority, and "director" defined and training and instruction,  
4 respectively, so as to require that 9-1-1 communications officers receive training in the  
5 delivery of high-quality telephone cardiopulmonary resuscitation; to provide training  
6 requirements; to provide for compliance reviews; to provide for the establishment of  
7 continuing education units for communications officers; to provide for a definition; to require  
8 certain training for directors of public safety answering points; to provide for related matters;  
9 to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

11 **SECTION 1.**

12 Code Section 35-8-23 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to basic training  
13 course for communications officers, is amended by adding new subsections to read as  
14 follows:

15 "(e)(1) On and after January 1, 2024, communications officers shall be required to  
16 successfully complete training in the delivery of high-quality telephone cardiopulmonary

17 resuscitation (T-CPR) in addition to the basic training otherwise required by this Code  
18 section, and on or after that date no person shall be certified by the council under this  
19 Code section unless such person has satisfactorily completed such training; provided,  
20 however, that the requirements of this subsection shall be satisfied by any  
21 communications officer who is certified in emergency medical dispatch, as such term is  
22 defined in Code Section 38-3-181. Such training shall follow the most current evidence  
23 based nationally recognized guidelines for high-quality telephone cardiopulmonary  
24 resuscitation which incorporate recognition protocols for out-of-hospital cardiac arrest,  
25 compression-only cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and continuing education.  
26 (2) The council shall conduct administrative compliance reviews with respect to the  
27 requirements of this subsection, including adherence by communications officers and  
28 local government agencies, and may adjust state assistance grants issued pursuant to  
29 Code Section 46-5-134.2 based on failure to comply with the requirements of this  
30 subsection.  
31 (f) By January 1, 2024, the council, in coordination with the Georgia Emergency  
32 Communications Authority, shall establish an amount of continuing education units to be  
33 annually completed by communications officers. On or after January 1, 2025, no person  
34 shall be certified by the council under this Code section unless such person has  
35 satisfactorily completed such training."

36

**SECTION 2.**

37 Code Section 38-3-181 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to definitions  
38 relative to emergency communications authority, is amended by adding a new paragraph to  
39 read as follows:

40 "(2.1) 'Emergency medical dispatch' means the management of requests for emergency  
41 medical assistance by utilizing a system of:

42 (A) A tiered response or priority dispatching of emergency medical resources based  
43 on the level of medical assistance appropriate for the victim; and  
44 (B) Prearrival first aid or other medical instructions given by trained  
45 telecommunicators responsible for receiving 9-1-1 calls and dispatching public safety  
46 agencies."

47 **SECTION 3.**

48 Code Section 46-5-138.2 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to "director"  
49 defined and training and instruction, is amended by revising subsection (b) as follows:

50 "(b) In addition to any training required under federal or state law, any persons ~~serv~~ing as  
51 becoming a director may on or after January 1, 2024, shall enroll in, attend, and complete  
52 satisfactorily a course of training and instruction on the management of public safety  
53 answering points and the establishment and operation of 9-1-1 systems. Such course of  
54 instruction for directors shall be developed and made available by the center subject to the  
55 availability and receipt of funding."

56 **SECTION 4.**

57 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.