

1 State of Arkansas
2 93rd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2021
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1373

5 By: Representative A. Collins
6 By: Senator Bledsoe
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW TO REQUIRE THAT PERSONNEL OF
10 PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINTS BE TRAINED IN
11 TELEPHONE CPR; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

14 TO AMEND THE LAW TO REQUIRE THAT
15 PERSONNEL OF PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING
16 POINTS BE TRAINED IN TELEPHONE CPR.
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20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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22 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. LEGISLATIVE INTENT.

23 The General Assembly finds that:

24 (1) Over three hundred sixty-six thousand (366,000) people
25 annually experience an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest across the nation;

26 (2) If cardiopulmonary resuscitation begins before the arrival
27 of emergency medical service personnel, a person in cardiac arrest has a two
28 (2) to three (3) times higher likelihood of survival; and

29 (3) Initial information suggests an increased number of out-of-
30 hospital cardiac arrest instances associated with coronavirus 2019 (COVID-
31 19).
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33 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 12-10-306 is amended to read as follows:
34 12-10-306. Communications personnel.

35 The staff and supervisors of a public safety answering point or
36 dispatch center shall be:



1 (1)(A) Paid employees, either sworn officers or civilians, of
2 the operating agency designated by the chief executive of the political
3 subdivisions.

4 (B) Personnel other than law enforcement or fire officers
5 shall be considered public safety officers for the purposes of public safety
6 communications or engaging by contract with the operating agency;

7 (2) Required to submit to criminal background checks for
8 security clearances before accessing files available through the Arkansas
9 Crime Information Center if the public safety answering point or dispatch
10 center is charged with information service functions for criminal justice
11 agencies of the political subdivision;

12 (3) Trained in operation of 911 system equipment and other
13 training as necessary to operate a public safety answering point or dispatch
14 center, or both;

15 (4)(A) Trained in telephone cardiopulmonary resuscitation,
16 defined as the delivery of compression or ventilation instructions to callers
17 of suspected cases of out-of-hospital cardiac arrest, if the public safety
18 answering point or dispatch center offers pre-arrival instructions for
19 emergency medical conditions.

20 (B) The training required in subdivision (4)(A) of this
21 section shall:

22 (i) Use protocols and scripts based on evidence-
23 based and nationally recognized guidelines for telephone cardiopulmonary
24 resuscitation; and

25 (ii) Include without limitation:

26 (a) Recognition protocols for out-of-hospital
27 cardiac arrest;

28 (b) Compression-only cardiopulmonary
29 resuscitation instructions; and

30 (c) Continuing education.

31 (C) Communications personnel who instruct a caller on
32 telephone cardiopulmonary resuscitation are not liable for any civil damages
33 that arise out of the instruction provided to a caller under this subdivision
34 (4) except for acts or omissions intentionally designed to harm or for
35 grossly negligent acts or omissions that result in harm to an individual.

36 (D)(i) A caller may decline to receive instruction on

1 telephone cardiopulmonary resuscitation under this subdivision (4).

2 (ii) If a caller declines instruction under
 3 subdivision (4)(D)(i) of this section, the communications personnel are not
 4 required to provide the instruction;

5 (5) Subject to the authority of the affiliated agency and the
 6 chief executive of the political subdivision through the public safety
 7 answering point or dispatch center; and

8 ~~(5)(A)(6)(A)~~ Required to immediately release without the consent
 9 or approval of any supervisor or other entity any information in their
 10 custody or control to a prosecuting attorney if requested by a subpoena
 11 issued by a prosecutor, grand jury, or any court for use in the prosecution
 12 or the investigation of any criminal or suspected criminal activity.

13 (B) The staff or supervisor of a public safety answering
 14 point or dispatch center, or both, an operating agency, and the service
 15 supplier are not liable in any civil action as a result of complying with a
 16 subpoena as required in subdivision ~~(5)(A)(6)(A)~~ of this section.

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