



Legislative Update

May 9, 2017



Governor Deal Vetoes the 9-1-1 Bill

Today Governor Nathan Deal vetoed SB 222, a top ACCG priority that would have created the Local Government 9-1-1 Authority. In his veto message, the Governor stated that he felt the Authority would have too much autonomy and should have more state accountability, oversight and coordination.

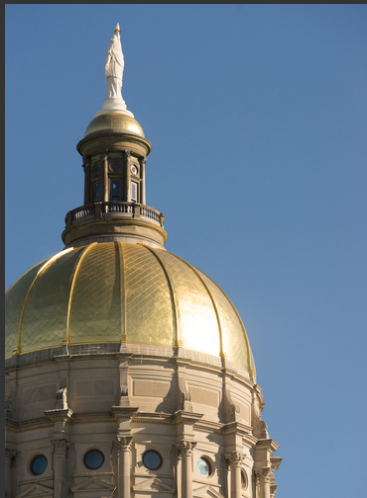
With the goal of providing 9-1-1 services in the best and most efficient manner for Georgia citizens, ACCG worked for three years to develop an entity that could provide coordination, training, best practices and, most importantly, planning for the implementation of Next Generation 9-1-1 while retaining local autonomy over the 9-1-1 service. Georgia counties felt strongly that 9-1-1 collections and oversight should remain under the control of a board that is made up of local government officials that provide the 9-1-1 service and that oversight and regulation by a state agency would not be an acceptable solution. Toward this end, ACCG worked with a large stakeholder group, as well as both the House and Senate leadership, to craft what we believed was a practical and viable solution.

In order to keep the 9-1-1 process moving forward the Governor has pledged to, by executive order, establish a Local Government 9-1-1 Authority to be housed at the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency (GEMHSA). He then plans to work with the General Assembly next session to codify the executive order and enact additional measures to strengthen 9-1-1 services throughout the state.

While ACCG is disappointed that this legislation was vetoed, we remain committed to working with the Governor to address his concerns while keeping local government oversight of the 9-1-1 service. ACCG offers its sincere appreciation to the bill's sponsor Senator John Kennedy and Representative Alan Powell, who worked tirelessly to push SB 222 through both chambers, as well as all of the stakeholders who spent countless hours negotiating the bill. Advancing 9-1-1 and implementing Next Generation 9-1-1 in Georgia is critical to the success of our public safety services and ACCG stands ready to partner with the state on this important endeavor.

To read the Governor's 2017 Veto Statements, please click [here](#).

If you have any questions, please contact ACCG Associate Legislative Director Debra Nesbit at dnesbit@accg.org or 404-522-5022.



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