

[2023 State & Federal Telecommunications Bills](#)

AB 296 (Rodriguez D) Office of Emergency Services: 9-1-1 Public Education Campaign.

Summary:

This bill would:

- establish the 911 Public Education Campaign, to be administered OES, for the purpose of educating the public on when it is appropriate to call 911 for assistance.
- have a goal of reducing the number of unnecessary calls to 911 call centers and reducing delays in the 911 system caused by non-emergency calls being placed.
- authorize OES to use federal preparedness grant funds or funds appropriated by the Legislature for these purposes to implement these provisions.

Status: 1/27/2023-From printer. May be heard in committee February 26.

AB 415 (Rodriguez D) Emergency Fairgrounds Communications Grant Act.

Summary:

This bill would:

- enact the Emergency Fairgrounds Communications Grant Act and would require, on or before January 1, 2025, that OES establish a grant program to provide fairgrounds with grant funding for the purpose of building and upgrading communication and internet infrastructure on fairgrounds.
- require OES to establish standards to determine the awarding of grant funding based on a fairground's need for internet capabilities in order to service an emergency response operation.
- require that a fairground receiving grant funds be:
 - located in an area with sufficient open-access middle-mile broadband infrastructure within a reasonable distance to support the fairground's expanded broadband capabilities; and
 - capable of providing public access to the fairground's broadband network throughout the year.

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- require OES to consult with the Dept. of Technology and the Dept. of Food and Agriculture to coordinate the statewide building and upgrading of communication and internet infrastructure on fairgrounds.
- The bill would provide that the program is operative only upon an appropriation by the Legislature.

Status: 2/9/2023-Referred to Committees on Emergency Management and Communications & Conveyance.

SB 318 (Ochoa Bogh R) “2-1-1” information and referral network.

Summary:

This bill would:

- upon appropriation, require the Dept. of Social Services to establish, develop, implement, and administer a 2-1-1 Support Services Grant Program.
- require CDSS to allocate 85% of funds for grants to fund core activities of 2-1-1 agencies, including, among others, contact handling, as specified, and improving the statewide ability to manage resource and user needs data to support data sharing and delivery to health systems, government agencies and other key partners, and shared capacity for analytics and systems.

Status: 2/7/2023-From printer. May be acted upon on or after March 9.

SB 402 (Wahab D) Emergency services: limiting police response.

Summary:

Current law:

- requires the future implementation of a statewide “988” telephone system for suicide prevention and mental health crises.

This bill would:

- require 911 or other service center calls for service relating to mental health or homelessness be dispatched to fire district or department personnel, EMS personnel, mental health personnel, or non-sworn unarmed police personnel and not to police officers, except as otherwise provided.

Status: 2/9/2023-Introduced. Read first time. To Committee on Rules for assignment. To print.

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[HR 369](#)

National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Wildland Fire Communications and Information Dissemination Act

(Rep. Kim, Young R-CA-40)

This bill:

- requires NIST's Public Safety and Communications Research Division to research standards among wildland firefighters, fire management response officials, and specified federal agencies responsible for coordinating and mobilizing for wildland fire and other incidents.
- must focus research on improving and integrating existing communications systems to allow for secure, real-time transmission of data, alerts, and advisories to fire management officials and wildland firefighters.
- requires publishing recommendations for specified federal agencies to improve public safety communication coordination standards among wildland first responders and fire management officials.
- must advise the Office of Management and Budget and the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy concerning the agencies' implementation of the recommendations.
- requires within one year of the publication of NIST's recommendations, the Government Accountability Office to report on the extent to which the agencies have implemented the recommendations.

Status: 01/17/2023 Referred to the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.