

## 12-10-302. Legislative findings, policy and purpose

- (a) It has been determined to be in the public interest to shorten the time and simplify the method required for a citizen to request and receive emergency aid.
- (b) The provision of a single, primary three-digit emergency number through which fire suppression, rescue, disaster and major emergency, emergency medical, and law enforcement services may be quickly and efficiently obtained will provide a significant contribution to response by simplifying notification of these emergency service responders. A simplified means of procuring these emergency services will result in saving of life, a reduction in the destruction of property, quicker apprehension of criminals, and ultimately the saving of moneys.
- (c) Establishment of a uniform emergency telephone number is a matter of concern to all citizens.
- (d) The emergency number 911 has been made available at the national level for implementation throughout the United States and Canada.
- (e) It is found and declared necessary to:
  - (1) Establish the National Emergency Number 911 (nine, one, one) as the primary emergency telephone number for use in participating political subdivisions of the State of Arkansas;
  - (2) Authorize each chief executive to direct establishment and operation of public safety answering points in their political subdivisions and to designate the location of a public safety answering point and agency which is to operate the center. As both are elected positions, a county judge must obtain concurrence of the county sheriff;
  - (3) Encourage the political subdivisions to implement public safety answering points; and
  - (4) Provide a method of funding for the political subdivisions, subject to the jurisdiction of the Arkansas 911 Board, which will allow them to implement, operate, and maintain a public safety answering point