



Build Back Better (BBB) Act Supporting NextGen 911

A Winbourne Update

Winbourne has been watching the Congressional activities associated with the Build Back Better Act (BBB Act), as have other 9-1-1 public safety agencies and administrators. Here is the latest update at the print of our November newsletter.

Subtitle K of H.R 5376, Next Generation 9-1-1, has passed the House and is pending deliberation and passage in the Senate. The President has indicated he does not see further activity on the bill until after Thanksgiving and he is prepared to sign the bill once it is passed in the Senate. The current bill addresses national NG911 implementation is to implement and maintain Next Generation 9-1-1 services, establish a NG9-1-1 Cybersecurity Center and create a 16-member advisory board.

The original legislation had set aside \$10B and unfortunately that is now down to approximately \$500M. This funding amount is inadequate to meet the needs of modernizing the 911 network across the country but does represent a down payment for NG9-1-1.

The bill currently includes \$470 million for NG9-1-1 grants to be administered by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and \$9 million for NTIA to establish a Next Generation 9-1-1 Cybersecurity Center to coordinate with State, local, and regional partners to share cybersecurity information and strategies for intrusion detection and prevention with respect to Next Generation 9-1-1 networks.

The Public Safety Next Generation 9-1-1 Coalition wrote to the bipartisan leadership of both chambers today to urge more funding for NG-911 and NG-911 cybersecurity.

"While the version of the Build Back Better Act that passed the House of Representatives today includes helpful language regarding NG9-1-1, the funding level is woefully inadequate to achieve meaningful nationwide implementation. Congress has otherwise provided significant broadband funding for nearly everything but emergency communications—the most critical of critical infrastructure. This will only widen the gap between the technology that is available to the public at their homes, businesses, schools, and libraries, and today's antiquated 9-1-1 system," the coalition said.

"The Coalition's funding request has bipartisan support. The amount needed—\$15 billion—is based on the results of a federal study required by Congress and to meet the growing cybersecurity threats facing public safety agencies. Further, this funding would go directly to state and local public safety agencies, foster innovation and competition, and accomplish several key public safety objectives including interoperability and cybersecurity," the coalition added. "Absent adequate federal funding, public safety agencies will be left with overly costly, incomplete, and non-interoperable solutions vulnerable to cyber-attacks."

The U.S. Senate will take up the BBB Act next and deliberate it over the coming weeks, with vote timing uncertain at this time, the Senate leadership has expressed a desire to have a Senate vote on it before Christmas.

Winbourne will continue to monitor this act and keep everyone updated. You can see the latest updates on our web page at: www.winbourneconsulting-llc.com