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NARRATIVE SUMMARY
NATIONAL SURVEY OF STATEWIDE 911 ACTIVITY

The purpose of this summary is to provide a national picture of the status of *statewide* 911 activities as reflected in the Franklin Institute's recent survey.

The data presented herein were gathered between November 1973 and January 1974. Every state, including the District of Columbia, was contacted by mail, telephone or both, and asked the following questions:

1. Has 911-related legislation been enacted on a statewide basis in your state?
2. Is any such legislation under consideration or being proposed?
3. Is there currently any statewide administrative activity in your state relating to 911?

While data was available from all states, only 10% (5) of the states indicated that legislation had been enacted. Of these, only one, California, can be truly said to have developed and passed comprehensive 911 legislation. The other activities in the states can fall under two broad headings. First, legislation is being considered or proposed in 26% (13) of the states, although the majority of the cases fall into the "considered" rather than the "proposed" category. Second, almost two-thirds of the states or 64% (32) sponsor some 911-related administrative activities, including: statewide administrative assistance to communities interested in implementing 911; negotiations with telephone companies concerning 911; the sponsoring of studies of 911 (using both internal and external research facilities); and the planning of integrated statewide emergency communications systems. A summary of the response patterns is presented in Table 1.

64622

Table 1. Summary of Response Patterns

Response Pattern	Legislation Enacted?	Legislation Proposed/Considered?	Administrative Activity?	Frequency (#,%)
1)	NO	NO	YES	19 (37%)
2)	NO	NO	NO	18 (35%)
3)	NO	YES	YES	9 (18%)
4)	YES	YES	YES	3 (6%)
5)	YES	NO	YES	2 (4%)

Though 911 systems have been in operation around the country for almost seven years, most states have only recently begun to see 911 as a part of their responsibilities. Therefore, though 911 systems exist in communities in virtually every state, few states have taken the initiative to ensure that any individual, at any time, anywhere within the state, will have access to a single emergency telephone number.

Based on the Institute's survey, most states seem to be eager to encourage the implementation of 911 through administrative channels, but have not yet embodied their commitments in statewide legislation and financial support; thus the responses indicate a degree of interest in 911 which far outpaces the scope of statewide activity to date. In many states, the communications directors are in direct contact with top state executives concerning 911, while in others, members of the legislature are following 911 developments.

While no specific data was collected on this point, telephone companies appear to have been playing a key role in statewide 911, either by encouraging implementation through initiating studies at their own expense (in Hawaii, for example) or by discouraging state administrators,

indicating that 911 would be too costly.

Looking ahead, it seems reasonable to project that by the end of the decade most states will have become committed, both legislatively and administratively, to a statewide 911 system. The crucial element governing the rapidity of this process of development will be the nature of future federal support. If federal legislation makes 911 a prerequisite for federal funding in the health or law enforcement fields, statewide 911 will become a virtual certainty. If federal money is made available directly for 911, most states will probably take advantage of such assistance. Otherwise 911 implementation will proceed somewhat more slowly but nonetheless certainly.

National Summary of Statewide 911 Activity

State	Has 911-related legislation been enacted on a statewide basis?	Is any such legislation under consideration or being proposed?	Is there currently any statewide administrative activity relating to 911?
ALABAMA	NO	NO	NO
ALASKA	NO	NO	NO
ARIZONA	NO	YES- <i>currently under consideration</i>	YES- <i>planning for the development of a "total 911 package"</i>
ARKANSAS	NO	YES- <i>currently being considered</i>	YES- <i>under consideration</i>
CALIFORNIA*	YES- <i>Assembly Bill 515-now State law-mandating that all emergency-responding agencies will be accessed by dialing 911 before 1983.</i>	YES- <i>additional legislation is pending</i>	YES- <i>the Department of General Services is in the process of developing a 911 guidelines manual</i>
COLORADO	NO	NO	YES- <i>assistance through Division of Communications to areas interested in 911</i>
CONNECTICUT	NO	NO	NO
DELAWARE**	NO	NO	NO
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	YES- <i>Mayor-Commissioner's order</i>	NO- <i>a complete 911 system is in effect and requires no further legislation</i>	YES- <i>The Metropolitan Police are responsible for systems, procedures, maintenance</i>
FLORIDA	YES- <i>financing a statewide study</i>	YES- <i>pending recommendations from the study</i>	YES- <i>consolidation of communication system by county in preparation for statewide 911</i>

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State	Has 911-related legislation been enacted on a statewide basis?	Is any such legislation under consideration or being proposed?	Is there currently any statewide administrative activity relating to 911?
GEORGIA	NO	NO	YES- <i>under consideration by the Crime Commission</i>
HAWAII	NO	NO	YES- <i>The Hawaiian Telephone Company completed a study including recommendations. No implementation decisions have yet been made.</i>
IDAHO	NO	YES- <i>being considered</i>	YES- <i>planning</i>
ILLINOIS	NO	NO	YES- <i>planning through State Department of Emergency Medical Services</i>
INDIANA	NO	NO	YES- <i>study currently underway by Indiana Telephone Association</i>
IOWA	NO	NO	YES- <i>Communications Division provides assistance to communities - develops communication system plans with localities.</i>
KANSAS	NO	NO	YES- <i>upcoming review</i>
KENTUCKY	NO	NO	YES- <i>interest</i>
LOUISIANA	NO	NO	NO
MAINE	NO	NO	NO
MARYLAND	NO	YES- <i>informal discussion</i>	YES- <i>through Emergency Medical Service</i>
MASS.	YES- <i>authorization by legislature to conduct study</i>	YES- <i>recommendations of study to be considered soon.</i>	YES- <i>the study was conducted by the Public Safety Department</i>

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State	Has 911-related legislation been enacted on a statewide basis?	Is any such legislation under consideration or being proposed?	Is there currently any statewide administrative activity relating to 911?
MICHIGAN	NO	YES- <i>legislative action likely to establish coordinated dispatching</i>	YES- <i>activity by State Police and Department of Management and Budget</i>
MINNESOTA	NO	YES- <i>likely in 1975</i>	YES- <i>comprehensive study initiated. Detailed recommendations developed for some areas of state</i>
MISSISSIPPI	NO	NO	NO
MISSOURI	NO	NO	NO
MONTANA	NO	NO	YES- <i>working with Mountain Bell on a 911 implementation schedule</i>
NEBRASKA	NO	NO	NO
NEVADA	NO	NO	YES- <i>through the State Communication Board</i>
NEW HAMPSHIRE	NO	NO	NO
NEW JERSEY	NO	YES- <i>senate resolution</i>	YES- <i>planning for State Police implementation</i>
NEW MEXICO	NO	NO	NO
NEW YORK	NO	NO	YES- <i>1. report of Public Service Commission. 2. Public Service Commission order to make all phone systems compatible in 4 years.</i>
NORTH CAROLINA	NO	NO	YES- <i>planning</i>
NORTH DAKOTA**	NO	NO	NO

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OHIO	NO	NO	YES- <i>planning</i>
OKLAHOMA	NO	NO	YES- <i>statewide communications system planning by the Board of Public Affairs</i>
OREGON	NO	YES- <i>legislative</i>	YES- <i>state sponsored studies</i>
PENNSYLVANIA	NO	NO	YES- <i>support for localities</i>
RHODE ISLAND	NO	NO	NO
SOUTH CAROLINA	NO	NO	NO
SOUTH DAKOTA	NO	NO	YES- <i>initiating statewide communication planning</i>
TENNESSEE	YES- <i>as part of Tennessee Emergency Medical Services Act of 1972</i>	NO	YES- <i>Emergency Medical Services Division of State Department of Public Health and Law Enforcement Planning Commission have encouraged local implementation</i>
TEXAS	NO	NO	NO
UTAH	NO	NO	NO
VERMONT	NO	NO	NO
VIRGINIA	NO	YES- <i>following research recommendations</i>	YES- <i>research</i>
WASHINGTON	NO	NO	YES

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State	Has 911-related legislation been enacted on a statewide basis?	Is any such legislation under consideration or being proposed?	Is there currently any statewide administrative activity relating to 911?
WEST VIRGINIA	NO	YES- <i>action likely on upcoming session by legislature</i>	NO
WYOMING	NO	NO	YES- <i>through Department of Local Affairs and Development</i>

NOTES:

*Since the California legislation is the only comprehensive piece of 911-related legislation thus far enacted, other states may be interested in the following summary, taken from the Legislative Counsel's Digest:

- 1) Requires relevant public agencies to submit tentative and final plans to telephone companies and to State Communications Division and to implement 911 before 1983.
- 2) The Communication Division will establish technical and operational standards for 911.
- 3) State Attorney General will be responsible for enforcement
- 4) "Provides that public agencies, as defined, in the same telephone emergency service system shall enter into joint powers agreements or cooperative agreements requiring emergency service units, once dispatched through the telephone emergency system, to respond whether or not requester is in such unit's jurisdictional boundaries..."

**Two states, Delaware and North Dakota, have implemented a single, statewide emergency number other than 911. Both involve state-wide toll-free calling, and a single, statewide dispatch system for critical services.

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