

Senate Resolution 900

By: Senators Davenport of the 44th, Anderson of the 43rd, Jones of the 10th, Butler of the 55th, Henson of the 41st and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing 9-1-1 and public safety telecommunicators as first responders in Georgia; and
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, 9-1-1 and public safety telecommunicators are part of the critical infrastructure
4 of the public safety framework and trained as communication officers pursuant to the
5 Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Act, Chapter 8 of Title 35; and

6 WHEREAS, 9-1-1 and public safety telecommunicators play a critical role in emergency
7 response as the first line of communication for persons needing police, fire, or medical
8 response, and as a lifeline to police, fire, and medical response personnel in the field; and

9 WHEREAS, these individuals are challenged on a daily basis, dealing with stressful
10 situations involving life and death, and handle such situations with compassion, empathy,
11 and professionalism; and

12 WHEREAS, while employing their experience and training to recognize a critical piece of
13 information, 9-1-1 and public safety telecommunicators are often communicating with
14 people in states of great distress, harm, fear, or injury; and

15 WHEREAS, 9-1-1 and public safety telecommunicators operate specialized systems for
16 tracking field responders, identifying the location of 9-1-1 callers, and for communicating
17 emergencies; and

18 WHEREAS, when responding to reports of missing, abducted, and sexually exploited
19 children, the information obtained and actions taken by 9-1-1 and public safety
20 telecommunicators form the foundation for an effective response; and

21 WHEREAS, when a hostage-taker or suicidal person calls 9-1-1, the first contact is with a
22 9-1-1 or public safety telecommunicator whose negotiation skills can prevent the situation
23 from worsening; and

24 WHEREAS, during mass casualty or other injurious incidents, 9-1-1 and public safety
25 telecommunicators coach callers through first aid and deliver advice to prevent further harm,
26 all while collecting vital information to provide situational awareness for responding
27 emergency personnel; and

28 WHEREAS, the performance of 9-1-1 and public safety telecommunicators has a profound
29 effect on the outcome of the call for service and timeliness and effectiveness of the operators
30 can be the difference between life and death; and

31 WHEREAS, without 9-1-1 and public safety telecommunicators adequate public safety
32 cannot be achieved.

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that 9-1-1 and public safety
34 telecommunicators are first responders in Georgia and shall be recognized as such in policy
35 considerations regarding first responders.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
37 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the public and the
38 press.