

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND**

**2021 Legislative Session**

**Bill 2021-09**

**MULTIPLE-LINE TELEPHONE SYSTEMS**

**Introduced by Charles County Commissioners**

Amending the Code of Charles County to achieve consistency with the Annotated Code of Maryland, Public Safety Article Section 1-314, known as "Kari's Law."

Adding Chapter 283- Telephone Access To 9-1-1 Emergency Assistance

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**Date introduced:** 10 / 19 / 2021

**Public Hearing:** 11 / 17 / 2021 @ 6:00 p.m. Virtually

**Commissioners Action:** 11 / 17 / 2021 \_\_\_\_\_

**Commissioner Votes:** RBC: Y, BR: Y, GB: Y, TC: Y, AS: Y

**Pass/Fail:** Pass

**Effective Date:** 01 / 01 / 2022

**Remarks:** \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing text.  
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

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2 **COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND**  
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5 **2021 Legislative Session**

6 Bill No. 2021-09

7 Chapter. No. 283

8 Introduced by County Commissioners of Charles County

9 Date of Introduction October 19, 2021  
10  
11

12 **BILL**

13 AN ACT concerning

14 **MULTIPLE-LINE TELEPHONE SYSTEMS**

15  
16 FOR the purpose of

17  
18 Amending the Code of Charles County to achieve consistency with the Annotated Code of  
19 Maryland, Public Safety Article Section 1-314, known as "Kari's Law."  
20

21 BY adding:

22 CHAPTER 283- TELEPHONE ACCESS TO 9-1-1 EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

23 *Code of Charles County, Maryland*

24 *(2016 Edition)*  
25

26 **SECTION 1.** BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CHARLES  
27 COUNTY, MARYLAND, that the Laws of Charles County, Maryland read as follows:  
28

29 § 283-1. PURPOSE; APPLICABILITY.

30 (A) PURPOSE. IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, AND  
31 WELFARE, THE PURPOSE OF THIS CHAPTER IS TO ENSURE THAT ANY PERSON  
32 USING A MULTIPLE-LINE TELEPHONE SYSTEM MAY DIRECT DIAL 9-1-1 WITHOUT  
33 DIALING ANY OTHER NUMBER OR SET OF NUMBERS.

34 (B) APPLICABILITY. THIS CHAPTER APPLIES TO ANY PERSON WHO INSTALLS OR  
35 OPERATES A MULTIPLE-LINE TELEPHONE SYSTEM  
36

37 Asterisks \*\*\* mean intervening code language remaining unchanged  
38 CAPITALS mean language added to the law  
39 [Brackets] mean language deleted from the law  
40

1       § 283-2 DEFINITIONS.

2       IN THIS ARTICLE, THE FOLLOWING TERMS SHALL HAVE THE MEANINGS  
3       INDICATED:

4       “MULTIPLE-LINE TELEPHONE SYSTEM” CARRIES THE SAME DEFINITION AS SET  
5       FORTH IN THE PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE OF THE MARYLAND ANNOTATED CODE,  
6       SECTION 1-314 (A).

7       “PERSON” CARRIES THE SAME DEFINITION AS SET FORTH THE PUBLIC SAFETY  
8       ARTICLE OF THE MARYLAND ANNOTATED CODE, SECTION 1-101.

9       “PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINT” CARRIES THE SAME DEFINITION AS SET  
10      FORTH IN THE PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE OF THE MARYLAND ANNOTATED CODE,  
11      SECTION 1-301.

12  
13      § 283-3 REQUIREMENTS.

14      PURSUANT TO SECTION 1-314 OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE OF THE  
15      MARYLAND ANNOTATED CODE, A PERSON WHO INSTALLS OR OPERATES A  
16      MULTIPLE-LINE TELEPHONE SYSTEM SHALL ENSURE THAT THE SYSTEM IS  
17      CONNECTED TO THE PUBLIC SWITCHED TELEPHONE NETWORK IN SUCH A WAY  
18      THAT WHEN AN INDIVIDUAL USING THE SYSTEM DIALS 9-1-1, THE CALL  
19      CONNECTS TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINT WITHOUT REQUIRING THE  
20      USER TO DIAL ANY OTHER NUMBER OR SET OF NUMBERS.

21  
22      § 283-4. AUTHORITY TO TEST.

23      THE DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES IS DESIGNATED TO ENFORCE THIS  
24      CHAPTER, AND MAY COORDINATE WITH OTHER COUNTY DEPARTMENTS, PUBLIC  
25      ENTITIES, OR PRIVATE VENDORS, TO EXECUTE 9-1-1 ACCESS VERIFICATION  
26      TESTING OF MULTIPLE-LINE TELEPHONE SYSTEMS TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE  
27      WITH THIS CHAPTER.

28  
29      §283-5. PENALTIES.

30      A PERSON WHO VIOLATES SECTION 283-3 OF THIS CHAPTER IS SUBJECT TO A FINE  
31      OF \$100. EACH DAY FOLLOWING THE FIRST NOTICE OF VIOLATION THAT A  
32      MULTIPLE-LINE TELEPHONE SYSTEM IS NONCOMPLIANT WITH SECTION 283-3 OF  
33      THIS CHAPTER SHALL BE DEEMED A SEPARATE VIOLATION. NO FINES SHALL BE  
34      IMPOSED PRIOR TO JULY 1, 2022.

**SECTION 2.** BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that this act shall take effect forty-five (45) calendar days after it becomes law.

ADOPTED this 17th day of November, 2021.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND

Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., President

Bobby Rucci, Vice President

Gilbert O. Bowling, III

Thomasina O. Coates, M.S.

Amanda M. Stewart, M.Ed.

ATTEST:

Carol A. DeSoto  
Clerk to the Commissioners

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