

Counties Required to Consolidate 911 Systems into Single Command Center

[HB 1427](#) – Rep. Danny Alvarez (SB 1586 – Sen. Nick DiCeglie)

General Bill Summary

HB 1427 would require every Florida county, and every public agency within the county, to provide 911, emergency call, and dispatch services through a single unified 911 call center by January 1, 2029. A county could operate that center itself or participate in a regional center created by interlocal agreement or similar agreement, but the operating entity and funding plan would have to be approved by a unanimous vote of a newly created county or regional executive board.

If a county does not establish a unified structure by January 1, 2027, the sheriff becomes the default entity to provide 911, emergency call, and dispatch services, and all existing county 911 operations must be integrated under the sheriff. The bill also redirects state emergency-service funds to the county operating the center, or to the sheriff when the sheriff becomes the operator. Counties that do not establish a unified center would lose eligibility for state emergency-service funds, and noncompliant counties would face a 25 percent annual reduction in emergency funding beginning after the compliance deadline. The bill also restricts in-county call transfers, requires interoperability and cybersecurity standards, and treats 911 centers and related systems as critical infrastructure.

Potential County Impact

For counties, the bill would represent a significant governance, operational, and fiscal restructuring of 911 services. County commissions would need to convene an executive board within 90 days after July 1, 2026, bringing together county and municipal public-safety stakeholders to unanimously determine who will operate the unified center and how it will be funded. The unanimity requirement may present challenges in counties with multiple municipalities or existing independent dispatch operations.

The bill also raises potential local control considerations. If local governments fail to reach agreement by January 1, 2027, the sheriff would automatically assume responsibility for operating the unified 911 center. In that situation, counties would still be responsible for funding requests submitted through the annual needs assessment process, but the sheriff would control operations and related equipment. Counties may also face transition costs associated with consolidation, including technology integration, cybersecurity compliance, interoperability upgrades, and possible facility modifications. The bill could effectively preempt existing fragmented dispatch systems by requiring participation in the unified structure and by tying state funding eligibility to compliance.

Effective Date

Upon becoming a law.

The bill also establishes major implementation deadlines of January 1, 2027 and January 1, 2029 related to governance decisions and full compliance.

Primary Statutory References

Amended:

- s. 365.171, F.S.

Related cross-references in the bill:

- s. 30.49, F.S.
- ch. 129, F.S.
- s. 119.0725(1), F.S.