

**COUNTY COUNCIL
OF
DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND**

BILL NO. 2025-3

AN ACT OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND PURSUANT TO MD. CODE ANN., PUBLIC SAFETY § 1-311 TO AMEND CHAPTER 85 – EMERGENCY TELEPHONE CHARGE, § 85-1 OF THE DORCHESTER COUNTY CODE BY INCREASING THE 911 FEE FOR DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND TO \$4.25 PER MONTH.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Public Safety § 1-311(c)(2), if revenues attributable to a county’s 911 fee for a fiscal year do not provide the revenues necessary to cover the county’s operational costs for that fiscal year, the county may, for the following fiscal year, impose a county 911 fee sufficient to cover the county’s projected operational costs for the 911 system for the fiscal year for each switched local exchange access service, commercial mobile radio service (“CMRS”), or other 911 accessible service provided; and

WHEREAS, on June 14, 1983, the former Board of County Commissioners of Dorchester County passed Ordinance No. 91 for the purpose of establishing a 911 fee for Dorchester County, Maryland (the “County”), which is codified as Chapter 85 – Emergency Telephone Charge of the Dorchester County Code (the “County Code”); and

WHEREAS, Chapter 85 of the County Code was last amended in 2025 pursuant to Bill No. 2025-2, which established a local 911 fee of two dollars (\$2.00); and

WHEREAS, the County Council of Dorchester County has determined that the existing fee increase is insufficient to adequately cover the eligible operation and maintenance costs of the County’s 911 emergency telephone system; and

WHEREAS, the County Council of Dorchester County has further determined that an increase in the local 911 fee to four dollars twenty five cents (\$4.25) is necessary to sufficiently cover the eligible operation and maintenance costs of the County’s 911 emergency telephone system;

SECTION ONE: Pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Public Safety § 1-311(c)(2), be it ENACTED and ORDAINED by the County Council of Dorchester County, Maryland, that a Chapter 85 – Emergency Telephone Charge, § 85-1 of the Dorchester County Code is hereby amended as follows, with new language shown in **bold, underlined** font and deleted language shown in ~~strikethrough~~:

Chapter 85
EMERGENCY TELEPHONE CHARGE

§ 85-1. Levy of additional charge.

There is hereby assessed and levied an additional local 911 emergency telephone charge in the amount of ~~two dollars~~ **four dollars twenty five cents** (~~\$2.00~~ **\$4.25**) per month per telephone billing, to be applied to all telephone bills rendered for switched local exchange access, commercial mobile radio service (“CMRS”), or other 911 accessible service within Dorchester County to help defray the eligible operation and maintenance costs of Dorchester County for the 911 system.

SECTION TWO: Be it further ENACTED and ORDAINED, by the County Council of Dorchester County, Maryland, that a copy of this Bill shall be forwarded to the Public Service Commission, the Maryland 911 Board, and no later than the implementation of the fee change, the Comptroller of Maryland certifying said additional local 911 fee.

SECTION THREE: Be it further ENACTED and ORDAINED, by the County Council of Dorchester County, Maryland, pursuant to § 308 of the Charter of Dorchester County, Maryland, that promptly after enactment of this Act, the County Manager shall cause a fair summary of this Act to be published at least once in a newspaper of general circulation in Dorchester County, Maryland.

SECTION FOUR: Be it further ENACTED and ORDAINED, by the County Council of Dorchester County, Maryland, that this Bill shall be known as Bill No. 2025-3 of Dorchester County, Maryland and shall take effect July 1, 2025.

SECTION FIVE: The 911 fee increase set forth herein is subject to the provisions of Md. Code Ann., Public Safety § 1-311.

[SIGNATURE PAGE TO FOLLOW]

PUBLIC HEARING

Having been posted and notice of the time, date, and place of hearing, and the title of Bill No. 2025-3 having been published, a public hearing was held on April 15, 2025 at 6:04 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Room 110, County Office Building, 501 Court Lane, Cambridge, Maryland 21613.

PASSED THIS ____ DAY OF _____, 2025.

ATTEST:

COUNTY COUNCIL OF
DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND

Jerry Jones
County Manager

George L. Pfeffer, Jr.
President

Pfeffer –

Detmer –

Kramer –

Nichols –

Travers –