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**Representative Willhite Files Legislation Related to 911
Public Safety Telecommunicators**

TALLAHASSE, Fla. – State House **Representative Matt Willhite (D-Wellington)** files legislation related to 911 Public Safety Telecommunicators. [HB 1171](#) along with its Senate companion [SB 1224](#) by **Senator Shevrin Jones (D-Miami Gardens)** aims to change the definition of first responder to include 911 public safety telecommunicators and revise the criteria in the Special Risk Class of the Florida Retirement System to include members employed as 911 public safety telecommunicators.

“Most of us don’t know much about dispatchers other than they are the voices on the other end of a 911 call. Yet, in reality, they are so much more important than just call receivers; they are a crucial part of a public safety system,” said **Representative Willhite**. “When there is an emergency and you need help, 911 telecommunicators are the first people you speak with. Telecommunicators may patiently talk with our parents or grandparents the moments after they have fallen or stay on the line with us during dangerous situations as we wait for police officers or firefighters to arrive. Telecommunicators always answer the phone, and the reality is they have one of the most stressful and emotionally taxing jobs in America. It is now time that the Florida Legislature do something to recognize them.”

Senator Shevrin Jones issued the following statement:

"Public safety telecommunicators are unseen heroes who keep our families and communities safe, and we owe them a safe work environment. The essential services they provide are invaluable as they stabilize high-stress crisis situations that are oftentimes life or death. I appreciate all that these workers do for us each and every day and am happy to champion this bill in the Senate."

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