



## ***BILL SUMMARY***

---

---

# **E911 Surcharge HF 2439**

Status of Bill: House Calendar  
Committee: Public Safety (21-0) Appropriations (24-0)  
Lead Democrats: Rep. Kressig & Rep. T. Taylor  
Floor Manager: Rep. Worthan  
Research Analyst: Anna Hyatt 515-281-5939  
[anna.hyatt@legis.iowa.gov](mailto:anna.hyatt@legis.iowa.gov)

March 22, 2016

---

---

### **Background**

Last year, the Legislature passed language in HF 651 which increased the amount of money, from 46% to 60%, allocated to local public safety answering points (PSAPs) from the E911 surcharge fund. The moneys in this surcharge is made up of the surcharge collected on wireless communication devices and the surcharge on prepaid wireless card purchases. The Governor vetoed this portion of HF 651, so the appropriation to the PSAPs remained at 46%. The local law enforcement and first responder groups were displeased with the veto because the money is needed at the local level to upgrade the equipment at the PSAP as well as equipment used by the law enforcement and other first responders in the field. Additionally, they felt that the Legislature had come to an agreement and that this agreement was not being honored.

### **Bill Summary**

House File 2439 increases the percentage of the surcharge that is appropriated out to the PSAPs from 46% to 60%, and allows the public safety answering points to expend the money on communication equipment utilized for the receipt and disposition of 911 calls. This expands the type of equipment that the money can be spent on, which is very important to the PSAPs.

The Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management is authorized to maintain a reserve account equal to 12.5% of the annual surcharge collected, which is equal to \$3.5 million. This money can only be used for the repair or replacement of equipment in the event of a catastrophic equipment failure, as determined by the Director of the Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

Language is added regarding the reimbursement to wireless providers to enable them to use the reimbursement money on the integration of an internet protocol-enabled next generation 911 network. This type of network enables texts and other data capable exchanges.

The bill also contains language that provides financial incentives for PSAPs that choose to consolidate with one or more PSAP. Consolidation is defined to be a physical consolidation (locations) or consolidation through technology. If consolidation occurs, that PSAP could receive a grant that cannot exceed one-half of the projected cost of consolidation or \$200,000, whichever is less. This grant program expires on June 30, 2022. The language requires the Director of the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management in consultation with the E911 Program Manager and the E911 Council to adopt rules for this grant program.

Lastly, the bill requires the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management to conduct a study on how PSAPs could achieve operational and cost efficiencies with consolidation. This report is to be submitted no later than January 15, 2017.

Hyatt, Anna|G:\Caucus Staff\anna.hyatt-crozier\Approps\2016 Session\HF 2439Summ.docx|March 22, 2016|10:03 AM