



BILL SUMMARY

E911 Communications Fund HF 651

Status of Bill: House Calendar
Committee: House Public Safety (20-0)
House Appropriations Committee (21-1)
Lead Democrats: Rep. Kressig and Rep. T. Taylor
Floor Manager: Rep. Worthan
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Background

This bill addresses an increase in the disbursement of money from the \$1 surcharge on wireless communication devices and the surcharge on prepaid wireless purchases, which has seen an increase in its carryover funds. The two biggest reasons for this increase are: the increase in the wireless surcharge that we did in 2013 (from \$0.65 to \$1.00), and the fact that the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department (HSEMD) decreased their annual costs from \$7.2 million to \$2.4 million.

Under current law, 46% of the collected surcharge is appropriated to each public safety answering point (PSAP) in the following manner:

- 65% allocated in proportion to the square miles of the service area to the total square miles of the service area to the total square miles in the state.
- 35% allocated in proportion to the wireless E911 calls taken at the public safety answering point in the service area to the total of number of wireless E911 calls originating in the state.
- notwithstanding any of the previous two allocations, minimum amount allocated shall be not less than \$1,000 per public safety answering point within the service area.

Language does require a public safety answering point to annually submit a written request for this money and the money can only be spent on communication equipment utilized by the public safety answering points for the implementation and maintenance of E911 services.

The money from this E911 Surcharge Fund has other allocations, including an appropriation to the HSEMD for the administration of the surcharge and an appropriation to wireless providers for cost recovery.

Bill Summary

The language in HF 651 keeps the intent of this law, but does make some changes and includes other expenditures.

The bill adds language to chapter 29C, Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department (HSEMD), stating that HSEMD, in coordination with the Departments of Public Safety and Transportation, must reimburse the provider for lease costs associated with a statewide land mobile radio communications system that interfaces with the Iowa interoperability radio platform. This is a radio system that will enable users of the system to access and talk with other users located anywhere in the state. This system is not meant to be used on a daily basis, but only when the need arises to talk with other users that are located outside of their area.

Language states that all PSAPs may access this statewide system free of charge and the platform must be under the joint purview of the DPS and DOT. Both departments must submit a joint report twice a year to the Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board, with the first report due July 1, 2016.

The percentage of the surcharge that is appropriated out to the PSAPs is increased from 46% to 53%, 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 allocation of that 53% to each PSAP does not change.

New language is added to offer incentive money to PSAPs that consolidate. The language states that a PSAP that enters into a consolidation agreement with another PSAP will receive an additional 25% for a three-year period.

The cost recovery payment to wireless carriers is extended for another ten years. This payment, which totals \$560,000 every year, was scheduled to end on June 30, 2016, but the bill now extends that to June 30, 2026.

Lastly, the bill states that if there is any remaining moneys in the fund, up to \$100,000 per fiscal year can be used for the development of public awareness and educational programs, as well as for expenses from members of the E911 Communications Council for travel, monthly meetings, and training.