

HB 363 - Rep. Mark Hart

Next Generation 911 Technology Fund Enhancement

On behalf of the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security/911 Services Board

The proposed legislation will:

- Modify KRS 65.7631(3) to increase the allocation of wireless 911 fees to the statewide Next Generation 911 Technology Fund from 2.5% to 5%.
- Modify KRS 65.7631(4) to reduce the allocation of wireless 911 fees in the Grant Fund from 10% to 7.5%.
- Lower the 911 Grant Fund cap from \$3 million to \$2.5 million (to correspond with lowered contributions).
- Require all certified 911 emergency communication centers (PSAPs) to participate in 911 Services Board-funded, statewide initiatives to meet federal guidelines, and specific NG911 projects, programs, and initiatives.
- Allow Kentucky State Police post PSAPs within the KSP statewide 911 network that do not have primary call-taking responsibility for a city/county, but still provide backup services to at least one non-KSP PSAP, to receive one-half of a pro rata share.
- **Result in no additional cost to the Commonwealth or Kentucky taxpayers** as wireless 911 fees remain unchanged.

Background

- Funding for the 911 Services Board is derived in its entirety from 911 fees placed upon wireless communication devices. No general funds are appropriated to the 911 Services Board.
- To provide the most effective and efficient delivery of emergency response, states are adopting Next Generation 911 (NG911) technologies that allow citizens to send photos, texts, and videos to 911 call centers and allows 911 call centers to connect to a single network to share mapping data, advanced location information and caller profile information—ultimately increasing the accuracy of caller location and **reducing response times to save lives**.
- Kentucky qualified for a \$2.3 million federal NG911 grant in 2019 to provide foundational support for launching statewide NG911 initiatives in the commonwealth.
- Legislation passed by the 2020 General Assembly created a dedicated funding stream for statewide NG911 projects, programs, and initiatives.
- The 911 Services Board was able to leverage federal funds and state matching funds to expand NG911 initiatives beyond initial expectations.
- Federal NG911 grant funding expires in March 2022.
- Redirecting a portion of existing Kentucky 911 Services Board grant funding will create a permanent funding stream for foundational NG911 initiatives without increasing 911 fees for Kentucky taxpayers or placing a burden on the General Fund. **Without this bill, some statewide NG911 initiatives will have to be abandoned next year and Kentucky simply cannot afford to lose any momentum in the NG911 arena.**
- Over the last several years, several counties previously serviced by KSP became independently certified, leaving six KSP posts without primary call-taking responsibility for any city or county—thus making those six posts no longer eligible to receive state funding. KOHS acknowledges that the statewide KSP 911 network provides backup 911 services unlike any other secondary or backup PSAP in the Commonwealth. Providing partial funding for such KSP posts strengthens the viability of this critical statewide emergency communications system.
- It is of paramount importance that all 911 centers adopt NG911 in unison to **ensure no county is left behind**.

Point of Contact

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