

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1610 Session of  
2007

INTRODUCED BY DERMODY, FRANKEL, LEVDANSKY, WALKO, RAMALEY,  
PETRONE, KOTIK, MARKOSEK, GERGELY, READSHAW AND KORTZ,  
JUNE 21, 2007

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER AFFAIRS, JUNE 21, 2007

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of July 9, 1990 (P.L.340, No.78), entitled "An  
2 act providing for a Statewide emergency telephone number 911  
3 system; providing for contributions from telephone  
4 subscribers; providing a penalty; and making a repeal,"  
5 further defining "contribution rate"; and further providing  
6 for county plan and expenditures.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. The definition of "contribution rate" in section  
10 2 of the act of July 9, 1990 (P.L.340, No.78), known as the  
11 Public Safety Emergency Telephone Act, amended December 30, 2003  
12 (P.L.384, No.56), is amended to read:

13 Section 2. Definitions.

14 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall  
15 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
16 context clearly indicates otherwise:

17 \* \* \*

18 "Contribution rate." A fee assessed against a telephone  
19 subscriber for the nonrecurring costs, maintenance and operating

1 costs of a 911 system. Counties of the first [through] and  
2 second class A may impose a monthly contribution rate in an  
3 amount not to exceed \$1 per line on each local exchange access  
4 line. Counties of the second class may impose a monthly  
5 contribution rate in an amount not to exceed \$2 per line on each  
6 local exchange access line. Counties of the third through fifth  
7 class may impose monthly contribution rates in an amount not to  
8 exceed \$1.25 per line on each local exchange access line.  
9 Counties of the sixth through eighth class may impose a monthly  
10 contribution rate in an amount not to exceed \$1.50 per line on  
11 each local exchange access line. The contribution rate may be  
12 used by counties for the expenses of implementing, expanding or  
13 upgrading a 911 system. Expenses eligible for reimbursement  
14 through the contribution rate shall include telephone terminal  
15 equipment, trunk line service installation, network changes,  
16 building of initial data base and any other nonrecurring costs  
17 to establish a 911 system. The contribution rate may also be  
18 used to fund recurring costs pursuant to section 8(b). Expenses  
19 not eligible for reimbursement through the contribution rate  
20 shall include purchase of real estate, cosmetic remodeling,  
21 central office upgrades, hiring of dispatchers, ambulances, fire  
22 engines or other emergency vehicles, utilities, taxes and other  
23 expenses as determined by the Pennsylvania Emergency Management  
24 Agency. In addition to the eligible expenses set forth above,  
25 counties of the second class are eligible for reimbursement  
26 through the contribution rate for the general costs of providing  
27 emergency services.

28 Section 2. Sections 5(h) and 8(b) of the act, amended  
29 February 12, 1998 (P.L.64, No.17), are amended to read:  
30 Section 5. County plan.

1       \* \* \*

2       (h) Contribution rate changes.--Once a plan and contribution  
3 rate has been established, the contribution rate shall remain  
4 fixed for a period of at least [three] two years from the date  
5 of the commission's approval of the contribution rate in the  
6 county plan. Updating and expanding the present system shall  
7 require an amended plan to be filed with the agency. The  
8 contribution rate shall remain fixed for [three] two years even  
9 if the present system is updated and expanded. Requests for  
10 contribution rate changes shall be submitted to the agency to be  
11 forwarded to the commission for approval as provided by  
12 subsection (e). Contribution rate increases shall not be  
13 permitted more often than every [three] two years and shall not  
14 take effect unless approved by the commission.

15       \* \* \*

16 Section 8. Expenditures for nonrecurring costs, training,  
17                   mobile communications equipment, maintenance and  
18                   operation of 911 systems.

19       \* \* \*

20       (b) Items included in nonrecurring costs, training, mobile  
21 communications equipment, maintenance and operation costs.--  
22 Maintenance and operation costs may include telephone company  
23 charges, equipment costs or equipment lease charges, repairs,  
24 utilities, development and maintenance of a master street  
25 address guide, erection of street signs on State and local  
26 highways, data base maintenance costs, personnel training,  
27 salary and benefit costs which are directly related to the  
28 provision of 911 services and costs for mobile communications  
29 equipment, audit costs and appropriate carryover costs from  
30 previous years. Maintenance and operation costs shall not

1 include any cost necessary to house the 911 system. No more than  
2 [70%] 80% of the contribution rate collected during each  
3 county's fiscal year may be utilized to fund personnel training,  
4 salary and benefit costs.

5 \* \* \*

6 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.