

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 936 Session of  
2010

INTRODUCED BY PAYTON, BELFANTI, BROWN, CALTAGIRONE, GOODMAN,  
HARKINS, HORNAMAN, JOSEPHS, KIRKLAND, MURT, PASHINSKI,  
READSHAW, SAYLOR, SIPTROTH AND YOUNGBLOOD, SEPTEMBER 20, 2010

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY  
PREPAREDNESS, SEPTEMBER 20, 2010

## A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency to engage  
2 a specialist to study the emergency 911 and wireless E-911  
3 telephone reporting systems and make a report, with  
4 recommendations, to the General Assembly.

5 WHEREAS, The act of July 9, 1990 (P.L.340, No.78), known as  
6 the Public Safety Emergency Telephone Act, declares that the  
7 implementation of a toll-free 911 telephone number, whereby an  
8 individual within this Commonwealth may gain rapid and direct  
9 access to emergency aid, is in the interest of public welfare  
10 and safety; and

11 WHEREAS, Act 78 establishes the Emergency Services Fund,  
12 which consists of three funding sources: fees collected from  
13 every wireless service customer, funds appropriated by the  
14 General Assembly and funds from private or other public sources;  
15 and

16 WHEREAS, The 911 system permits a person dialing 911 by  
17 telephone to be connected to a public safety answering point to  
18 report police, fire, medical and other emergencies; and

1 WHEREAS, The enhanced 911 service, or E-911, is an emergency  
2 telephone system that provides automatic identification of the  
3 caller's telephone number and location; and

4 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth maintains a public safety answering  
5 point (PSAP) in each of the 67 counties, and the cities of  
6 Allentown and Bethlehem each maintain a PSAP of their own,  
7 bringing the total number of PSAPs within this Commonwealth to  
8 69; and

9 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA)  
10 has publicly indicated the Emergency Services Fund has proven to  
11 be inadequate to fund these 69 PSAPs; and

12 WHEREAS, Because the 911 emergency calling system has become  
13 an integral and essential part of the provision of emergency  
14 services in this Commonwealth, an adequate means of funding this  
15 system is mandatory; therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That PEMA, after a competitive bidding process,  
17 hire experts to study the 911 and wireless E-911 systems  
18 currently being used, along with potential technologies, in  
19 relation to the funding mechanism currently authorized under Act  
20 78; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That the experts contracted to conduct this study  
22 analyze cost-benefit ratios to determine the cost effectiveness  
23 of these systems; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That the experts contracted to conduct this study  
25 provide their analysis to PEMA by November 15, 2010; and be it  
26 further

27 RESOLVED, That, based on its review of the experts' analysis,  
28 PEMA make a report and recommendations to the General Assembly  
29 with respect to the following:

30 (1) The efficacy of collecting the funding sources

1 allowed under Act 78.

2 (2) The expenditures authorized for payment from each  
3 county's restricted account for 911 expenditures.

4 (3) Disbursements made by PEMA from the Emergency  
5 Services Fund.

6 (4) The method and amount of funding collected through  
7 the contribution rate, the 911 surcharge and the wireless  
8 E-911 surcharge in comparison to the funding systems used by  
9 other states.

10 (5) The feasibility and effectiveness of consolidating  
11 PSAPs.

12 (6) Cost-saving measures that could be utilized by PSAPs  
13 or by PEMA which will not jeopardize public safety.

14 (7) Cost-saving initiatives being considered or  
15 implemented in other states.

16 (8) A review of current auditing requirements of State  
17 and county 911 expenditures.

18 (9) Issues the Commonwealth should consider when  
19 incorporating Next Generation 9-1-1 and other nontraditional  
20 communication technologies into its emergency response  
21 system.

22 (10) Emerging or available 911 funding options by either  
23 the Commonwealth or its political subdivisions which do not  
24 rely on disparate technologies, fees or grants;  
25 and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency  
27 submit this report, with recommendations, to the General  
28 Assembly by November 30, 2010.