

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. House Bill 583

PRINTER'S NO. 645

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

Wireless E-911 Emergency Services Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

February 8, 2013

PRIME SPONSOR

Representative Barrar

HISTORY OF BILL

Referred to VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, Feb. 8, 2013
Reported as committed, Feb. 11, 2013
First consideration, Feb. 11, 2013
Laid on the table, Feb. 11, 2013
Removed from table, March 13, 2013
Second consideration, March 18, 2013
Re-committed to APPROPRIATIONS, March 18, 2013
Re-reported as committed, March 19, 2013
Third consideration and final passage, March 19, 2013 (194-0)
(Remarks see House Journal Page), March 19, 2013

In the Senate

Referred to VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, April 3, 2013
Reported as committed, April 30, 2013
First consideration, April 30, 2013
Second consideration, May 7, 2013
Re-referred to APPROPRIATIONS, May 8, 2013
Re-reported as committed, May 13, 2013

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL

Senate Bill 583 amends Title 35 (Health and Safety) by expanding the powers and duties of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) in administering wireless E-911 systems. The bill states that PEMA shall provide counties, in relation to a wireless E-911 system, with plans that contain cost-saving measures for joint purchasing opportunities and that facilitate regionalization of technology and consolidation of public safety answering points (PSAPs) and their operations. PEMA must provide counties with suggested industry-acceptable and uniform standards concerning staffing levels and for the operation of PSAPs.

The bill adds language to clarify that no PSAP may be funded for more than 70% of its agency-approved personnel training, salary, and benefit costs during the agency's fiscal year. The bill deletes the language which only allowed the PSAP to use 70% of its total disbursement received for personnel costs, which caused some PSAPs to experience personnel funding shortfalls despite approved available funding for such personnel costs.

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The bill changes the current carry-forward method by which all agency-approved costs of the PSAPs are paid. The bill removes the existing language that describes the carry-forward process mandating payment of the prior year's approved but unfunded costs from the subsequent fiscal year's balance in the Fund. The new language stipulates that no costs may be carried forward for payment by PEMA in the subsequent fiscal year, except that the agency will fund all approved but unfunded costs submitted in FY 2012-13 and applied for in FY 2013-14.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Funding for the PSAPs will continue to be supported through the Wireless E-911 Emergency Services Fund, as well as funds from wireline and voice over Internet protocol (VoIP) providers within counties. This bill will eliminate carry-forward funding to the PSAPs for the prior year's approved but unfunded costs in the subsequent fiscal year from the Wireless E-911 Emergency Services Fund, after FY 2013-14. This change in the statute is necessary to ensure the solvency of the Wireless E-911 Emergency Services Fund and guarantees that obligations from the Fund do not exceed revenues deposited in the Fund. It also guarantees that monies will be available to fund current and new costs in the current fiscal year.

PSAPs will experience reduced reimbursement for costs, beginning in FY 2014-15, because the prior year's approved but unfunded costs will no longer be carried forward and paid in the subsequent fiscal year. PEMA estimates those carried-forward, unfunded prior year costs would have been about \$99.6 million in FY 2014-15 and \$130.1 million in FY 2015-16. Also, payment of approved current costs to PSAPs in any given fiscal year will be capped at available funds in that fiscal year.

Cost savings to both the county PSAPs and the Wireless E-911 Emergency Services Fund are expected in the future from the implementation of provisions in the bill which require PEMA to provide the counties with plans that promote joint purchasing opportunities and facilitate regionalization of technology and consolidation of 911 operations.

In the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee May 2012 "911 Emergency Telephone System" study, it is reported that PEMA estimates net statewide savings of \$13.7 million in capital expenditures and \$2.4 million in annual operating expenditures if capital and technological upgrades allowing shared networks and consolidated operations of PSAPs could be implemented.