

## Veto No. 1980-10

HB 2176

December 19, 1980

To the Honorable, the House of Representatives  
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

I hereby publicly proclaim, and file with the Secretary of the Commonwealth, my disapproval of House Bill 2176, Printer's No. 3652, entitled "An act providing for a Statewide emergency telephone number '911' system, establishing the Office of Telecommunication in the Department of General Services and providing for its powers and duties, and making a repeal."

This bill would provide for the establishment of a Statewide "911" emergency telephone system to be implemented on a county-by-county level with the Commonwealth funding the development, installation and ongoing operational costs of the "911" system. While I endorse the "911" concept, I must disapprove the bill, because of the severe fiscal impact it would have on the Commonwealth's General Fund.

The establishment of a "911" emergency telephone system is long overdue for the Commonwealth. Eleven counties currently have established "911" systems and it has been demonstrated that such a system saves lives, protects property and controls crime.

Whatever the need for such a system, however, the Commonwealth's fiscal integrity must be maintained. This bill inappropriately places the total funding responsibility on the Commonwealth's General Fund without providing either new revenue sources or making program cuts in other areas. In the first year of enactment, this bill will cost the General Fund an estimated \$2.9 million and within five years the cost will escalate to \$11.4 million. Given the current commitments and resources, and an uncertain economic outlook, it would be unwise to assume financial responsibilities of this magnitude without new revenues or offsetting budget cuts.

I have pledged my support of the Statewide "911" concept to the prime sponsor of this bill, Representative June Honaman, and my staff and I will work with her and other interested members of the General Assembly to find an alternative funding mechanism for establishment of a Statewide "911" system, one which does not place placing an excessive burden on the Commonwealth's General Fund.

For this reason, I disapprove of House Bill 2176, Printer's No. 3652.

DICK THORNBURGH