



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 519

February Session, 2002

Substitute Senate Bill No. 392

Senate, April 16, 2002

The Committee on Appropriations reported through SEN. CRISCO of the 17th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A REVERSE 9-1-1 SYSTEM.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 28-24 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
3 *passage*):

4 (a) There is established an Office of State-Wide Emergency
5 Telecommunications which shall be in the Division of Fire, Emergency
6 and Building Services within the Department of Public Safety. The
7 Office of State-Wide Emergency Telecommunications shall be
8 responsible for developing and maintaining a state-wide emergency
9 service telecommunications policy. In connection with said policy the
10 office shall:

11 (1) Develop a state-wide emergency service telecommunications
12 plan specifying emergency police, fire and medical service
13 telecommunications systems needed to provide coordinated

14 emergency service telecommunications to all state residents, including
15 the physically disabled;

16 (2) Pursuant to the recommendations of the task force established by
17 public act 95-318* to study enhanced 9-1-1 telecommunications
18 services, and in accordance with regulations adopted by the
19 Commissioner of Public Safety pursuant to subsection (b) of this
20 section, develop and administer, by July 1, 1997, an enhanced
21 emergency 9-1-1 program, which shall provide for: (A) The
22 replacement of existing 9-1-1 terminal equipment for each public safety
23 answering point; (B) the subsidization of regional public safety
24 emergency telecommunications centers, with enhanced subsidization
25 for municipalities with a population in excess of seventy thousand; (C)
26 the establishment of a transition grant program to encourage
27 regionalization of public safety telecommunications centers; and (D)
28 the establishment of a regional emergency telecommunications service
29 credit in order to support regional dispatch services;

30 (3) Provide technical telecommunications assistance to state and
31 local police, fire and emergency medical service agencies;

32 (4) Provide frequency coordination for such agencies;

33 (5) Coordinate and assist in state-wide planning for 911 and E911
34 systems;

35 (6) Review and make recommendations concerning proposed
36 legislation affecting emergency service telecommunications; [and]

37 (7) Review and make recommendations to the General Assembly
38 concerning emergency service telecommunications funding; and

39 (8) Not later than July 1, 2003, develop and implement emergency
40 alert services for the placement of telephone calls to notify the public of
41 an emergency or to provide the public with information relative to an
42 emergency.

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Fund-Type	Agency Affected	Current FY \$	FY 03 \$	FY 04 \$
GF - Cost	Public Safety, Dept.	-	Up to 3.9 million	300,000- 900,000

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill results in costs due to its requirement that the Office of State wide Emergency Telecommunications (OSET), within the Department of Public Safety, develop and implement an emergency alert services system. Such a system would notify the public of an emergency and provide the public with information relative to an emergency.¹

A statewide interactive emergency calling system (otherwise known as a reverse 9-1-1 system) would cost \$1.0 million - 3.0 million in year one with annual costs of \$300,000 - \$900,000 for maintenance and use of lines.² An eight county regional interactive emergency calling system would cost approximately \$250,000 with annual costs of \$50,000 - \$70,000.

¹ OSET coordinates various programs including the state's enhanced 911 telecommunications services, which is funded via a 28 cents surcharge to telephone customers in the state. The fund currently receives \$11 million from this surcharge.

² These estimates were derived from a comparative/cost benefit analysis prepared by Office of Statewide Emergency Telecommunications in February 2002.

OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 392

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A REVERSE 9-1-1 SYSTEM**SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the Office of State-Wide Emergency Telecommunications, by July 1, 2003, to develop and implement emergency alert services for placing telephone calls to notify the public of emergencies or emergency-related information.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND***Office of State-Wide Emergency Telecommunications***

By law, this office must:

1. develop a statewide emergency service telecommunications plan;
2. develop an enhanced emergency 911 program;
3. provide technical telecommunications assistance and frequency coordination for local police, fire, and emergency medical service agencies;
4. review and recommend proposed legislation affecting emergency service telecommunications; and
5. review and recommend emergency service telecommunications funding to the legislature.

The office is within the Department of Public Safety's Division of Fire, Emergency and Building Services.

Emergency Alert Systems

These systems use computerized calling devices to provide citizens with emergency alerts and warnings. They allow an entity, such as a police department, to provide messages quickly to a targeted area, such as an entire neighborhood or a few households. They have been used to provide notice about crimes, escaped prisoners, lost children,

flooding, hazardous material spills that may require evacuation; recall emergency staff; and deploy units in an emergency, among other things. One of the more commonly known systems is Reverse 911.

Related Bill

sSB 308, An Act Concerning a State-wide 311 Number, (File 33) requires the Department of Public Utility Control to develop a plan to implement a state-wide non emergency governmental telecommunications service to be known as 311. 311 systems are generally designed and used to transfer non emergency calls from the 911 system to reduce delays in answering times.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety Committee

Joint Favorable Change of Reference
Yea 22 Nay 0

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute
Yea 31 Nay 19