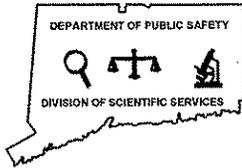




STATE OF CONNECTICUT



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

John A. Danaher III  
Commissioner

Lieutenant Edwin S. Henion  
Chief of Staff

February 10, 2009

Rep. Stephen Dargan, Co-Chairman  
Sen. Andrea Stillman, Co-Chairman  
Public Safety and Security Committee  
Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106

**HB 6055 AN ACT REQUIRING THE REGIONALIZATION OF PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINTS**

***The Department of Public Safety supports this bill.***

The Department of Public Safety supports regionalization of public safety answering points (PSAP). Over the past decade the State of Connecticut has provided significant financial incentives to towns and cities for the purpose of forming regional communications centers.

Despite those incentives we still have 107 public safety answering points (PSAP). Of those 107 PSAP, eight existing regional communications centers receive and process 9-1-1 calls for 72 municipalities. An additional nine multi-town public safety answering points serve an additional 14 municipalities. The State's Enhanced 9-1-1 Fund, under long established formulas, provides approximately \$4,000,000 annually for the support of regional and multi-town PSAP. Regional communications centers provide cost effective and efficient emergency communications service to member municipalities. A typical public safety answering point, regardless of call volume, costs a municipality approximately \$500,000 a year to operate.

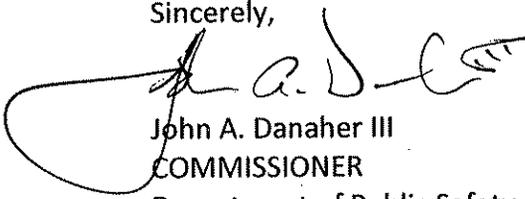
Currently the state has 71 stand alone public safety answering points that handle less than 10,000 calls per year. That call volume equates to very modest 1.1 calls per hour. The regionalization of those 71 PSAP, who handle 10,000 calls or less per year, into nine hypothetical new regional communications centers would result in increased funding to the new centers, from the 9-1-1 regional funding formulas, of approximately \$5,000,000.

The savings resulting to the local entities would be 63 times \$400,000 or \$25,500,000. It must be assumed that each member town would contribute some funds to the regional effort, thus the savings to the town would be \$400,000 with the remaining \$100,000 being cost sharing for the regional center.

The state currently incurs cost for the 9-1-1 network and PSAP call handling equipment. The reduction of the number of PSAP, from 107 to 45, would result in an immediate annual savings, to the state, of \$1,500,000 in PSAP network and equipment cost. Aside from the significant savings resulting from reduced PSAP staffing cost at the local level, additional savings would result from fewer radio systems. Regionalization also provides for dramatic increases in efficiency and the resolution of long standing interoperability problems.

Regionalization would provide for improved emergency telecommunications service for Connecticut's public safety services. With fewer radio systems, improved interoperability, reduced state and local costs, improved services and fewer transferred calls, all the residents, visitors and public safety providers would benefit from regionalization of PSAP. This bill should be passed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John A. Danaher III". The signature is stylized and written over the printed name.

John A. Danaher III

COMMISSIONER

Department of Public Safety