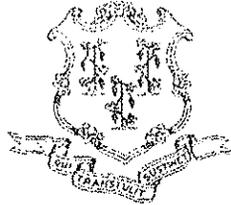


STATE OF CONNECTICUT



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

James M. Thomas  
Commissioner

Lieutenant Edwin S. Henlon  
Chief of Staff

February 8, 2011

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

**HB 5266 AN ACT SUPPLEMENTING THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE E 9-1-1 COMMISSION**

*The Department of Public Safety questions the need for this bill.*

This proposed bill would add two members to the existing E 9-1-1 Commission, one being a "representative of telecommunicators, as defined in section 28-30" and one being a 'representative of the public'.

The commission currently consists of eleven members, all of whom are appointed by the Governor and representing the following:

1) One representative of the technical support services unit of the Division of State Police within the Department of Public Safety; (2) the State Fire Administrator; (3) one representative from the Office of Emergency Medical Services; (4) one representative from the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security; (5) one municipal police chief; (6) one municipal fire chief; (7) one volunteer fireman; (8) one representative of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities; (9) one representative of the Council of Small Towns; (10) one manager or coordinator of 9-1-1 public safety answering points serving areas of differing population concentration; and (11) one representative of providers of commercial mobile radio services, as defined in 47 Code of Federal Regulations 20.3, as amended.

The addition of one representative of telecommunicators is not necessary as the commission has one representative for the public safety answering points serving in this capacity. PSAPs have enjoyed excellent representation and participation from this role.

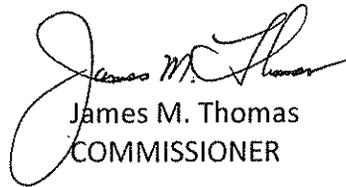
As to the addition of an additional 'representative of the public,' it should be noted that the public is currently represented through various organizations including fire service, police service, emergency management, local and state government (including 2 separate representatives for local government). It should also be noted that all Commission meetings are open to the public. They are held quarterly and always include time at the beginning and

end of each meeting for public comment, in addition to speaking through their representative. If this proposed bill does go forward, additional language should be considered to ensure that any member of the public designated to serve in this role would not stand to gain financially by being on this committee (vendor, consultant).

The current makeup of the E9-1-1 Commission allows for equal distribution among various organizations. If an additional PSAP representative is added, voting may be compromised with unequal votes being cast for PSAPs. This is particularly sensitive as the Office of Statewide Emergency Telecommunications (OSET) prepares for many critical political, technical and financial challenges.

It will be more critical than ever that the E9-1-1 Commission serve to advise OSET in these matters and to do so impartially and with the ultimate goal to provide the best emergency telecommunications to the residents of Connecticut and to do so objectively and without bias to any organization, municipality, regional center or vendors.

Sincerely,



James M. Thomas  
COMMISSIONER