



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES & PUBLIC PROTECTION
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

March 12, 2012

Rep. Patricia M. Widlitz, Co-Chairman
Sen. Eileen M. Daily, Co-Chairman
Finance Revenue and Bonding Committee
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

SB 354 AN ACT CONCERNING THE ENHANCED EMERGENCY 9-1-1 PROGRAM

***The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection
supports this bill.***

The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection realizes that there is an interest for wireless carriers in achieving administrative efficiencies which result from a standardized collection process across various states and jurisdictions. This proposal would require the seller to collect a special 9-1-1 fee for each pre-paid wireless transaction. The proposal fixes the rate per transaction at 50 cents, and removes PURA from the rate setting process for these wireless devices.

The exclusion of the "progressive wireline inclusion schedule" from the setting of the surcharge for wireless devices is good public policy. The "progressive wireline inclusion schedule" is in place to recognize the fact that large multi-line business phone systems that utilize a private branch exchange will not generate the number of 9-1-1 calls per line as will single-line residential or business lines. The risk, if you will, of a 9-1-1 call from any one of those lines is lower than for each single line. The "schedule" is not a "bulk discount." It follows the philosophy of our state's surcharge pricing model: that charges should reflect costs. Wireless phones, however, are by definition mobile. Not only are they more likely to dial 9-1-1 calls than any one of the one-hundred telephone lines in a large business telephone switch, our calling data shows that mobile

Rep. Patricia M. Widlitz
Sen. Eileen M. Daily
SB 354
March 12, 2012
Page 2

phones are much more likely to call than any other class of phone service. Over 70% of all 9-1-1 calls placed in Connecticut are from wireless phones. Therefore, the rationale for the "progressive wireline inclusion schedule" does not apply to wireless devices, and we wholeheartedly support this correction.

It is critically important to understand that neither the pre-paid proposal, nor the inclusion schedule proposal, or both of them taken together, can replace the need for an increase in the E911 surcharge cap that is proposed in the agency bill HB 5378 AN ACT CONCERNING THE MAXIMUM SURCHARGE FOR ENHANCED 9-1-1 SERVICE. Passage of HB 5378 is required in order for the Office of Statewide Emergency Telecommunications to meet its statutory obligations and fund the replacement of the obsolete and manufacturer-discontinued E911 telecommunications system. DESPP's only concern in supporting this bill is to be crystal clear that passage of this bill will in no way obviate the need for passage of HB 5378 AN ACT CONCERNING THE MAXIMUM SURCHARGE FOR ENHANCED 9-1-1 SERVICE.

Sincerely,



Reuben F. Bradford
COMMISSIONER