

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



PA 12-68—SB 62

*Public Safety and Security Committee
Energy and Technology Committee*

AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONNECTICUT PUBLIC SAFETY DATA NETWORK

SUMMARY: This act requires the (1) Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) commissioner to establish a public safety data network (PSDN) in an electronic format for exchanging information among public safety and criminal justice entities and (2) Office of State-Wide Emergency Telecommunications (OSET) to create technical and operational standards for the network's establishment before July 1, 2012.

The act requires the Enhanced 9-1-1 (E 9-1-1) Commission, in consultation with the Coordinating Advisory Board, to advise the DESPP commissioner in the network's planning, design, implementation, coordination, and governance. The commission currently plays a similar role with regard to the E 9-1-1 system.

The act adds the expenses associated with implementing and maintaining the PSDN to the other expenses the commissioner must consider when determining the amount of funding necessary for the E 9-1-1 program (see BACKGROUND). The program provides dispatch services to people who call 9-1-1.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, for the establishment of the PSDN; July 1, 2012, for the remaining provisions.

PSDN

The DESPP commissioner must (1) establish the PSDN, in consultation with the chief information officer of the Department of Administrative Services' Division of Information Technology, and (2) ensure that its implementation complies with state and federal requirements for controlled or limited access data. The act allows the commissioner to enter into memoranda of understanding (MOUs) with public safety or criminal justice agencies that connect to the PSDN about its use. The MOUs may address cost-sharing for using the network.

The act allows sources of revenue that provide funding for existing networks to be used to fund the network.

BACKGROUND

Funding for the E 9-1-1 Program

By law, the DESPP commissioner must annually determine and report to the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) the associated expenses and amount of funding needed to develop and administer the E 9-1-1 program. Funding can be provided for:

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1. buying, installing, and maintaining new public safety answering point (PSAP) terminal equipment;
2. transition grants to encourage PSAPs to regionalize;
3. subsidies for regional centers;
4. coordinated medical emergency direction services that provide medical instructions to an E 9-1-1 caller before medical assistance arrives;
5. personnel training and related costs;
6. capital costs and recurring expenses associated with the telecommunications system that supports the E 9-1-1 system;
7. collecting, maintaining, and reporting emergency medical services data as required by state law, up to \$250,000 per year; and
8. OSET's administrative costs.

Related Acts

Public Act 12-134 increases, from 50 to 75 cents per month, per access line, the maximum amount that PURA may assess telecommunications subscribers to fund the E 9-1-1 program.

Public Act 12-153 modifies how prepaid wireless subscribers are assessed the fee that funds the E 9-1-1 program.

Public Act 12-1 (§ 241), June 12 Special Session, requires OSET, which administers the E 9-1-1 program, by January 1 each year, to prepare and submit the annual budget for the E 9-1-1 Telecommunications Fund to the Office of Policy and Management secretary for review and approval.

OLR Tracking: VR:DC:MJ:ts:eh