

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH  
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



**PA 12-134—sHB 5378**

*Public Safety and Security Committee  
Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee  
Energy and Technology Committee*

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE MAXIMUM SURCHARGE FOR  
ENHANCED 9-1-1 SERVICE**

**SUMMARY:** This act increases, from 50 to 75 cents per month, per access line, the maximum amount that the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority may assess telecommunications subscribers to fund the Enhanced 9-1-1 (E 9-1-1) program. The program provides dispatch services to people who call 9-1-1.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Upon passage

**BACKGROUND**

*E 9-1-1 Fee Assessment and Collection*

Funding for the E 9-1-1 program is generated by a monthly fee levied on the phone lines of subscribers of (1) local telephone; (2) commercial mobile radio service (e.g., cell phone); (3) voice over Internet protocol (e.g., services provided by Vonage and Skype); and (4) prepaid wireless telephone service (CGS § 16-256g). Customers pay the fee to their telephone service provider, which remits it monthly to the State Treasurer's Office for deposit in the E 9-1-1 Telecommunications Fund. The fee is currently at the 50-cent per month cap. Customers with multiple lines are assessed on a sliding scale.

*Related Acts*

Public Act 12-68 requires the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) to establish an electronic public safety data network for exchanging information among public safety and criminal justice entities. It adds the expenses associated with implementing and maintaining the network to the other expenses the DESPP commissioner must consider when determining the amount of funding necessary for 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 the Office of State-Wide Emergency Telecommunications, 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:TA:PF:ro:eh