



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 388

January Session, 2015

Substitute House Bill No. 6970

House of Representatives, April 1, 2015

The Committee on Public Safety and Security reported through REP. DARGAN of the 115th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONSOLIDATION OF PUBLIC SAFETY
ANSWERING POINTS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 28-24 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2018*):

3 (a) There is established an Office of State-Wide Emergency
4 Telecommunications which shall be within the Department of
5 Emergency Services and Public Protection. The Office of State-Wide
6 Emergency Telecommunications shall be responsible for developing
7 and maintaining a state-wide emergency service telecommunications
8 policy. In connection with said policy, the office shall:

9 (1) Develop a state-wide emergency service telecommunications
10 plan specifying emergency police, fire and medical service
11 telecommunications systems needed to provide coordinated
12 emergency service telecommunications to all state residents, including

13 the physically disabled;

14 (2) Pursuant to the recommendations of the task force established by
15 public act 95-318 to study enhanced 9-1-1 telecommunications services,
16 and in accordance with regulations adopted by the Commissioner of
17 Emergency Services and Public Protection pursuant to subsection (b)
18 of this section, develop and administer, by July 1, 1997, an enhanced
19 emergency 9-1-1 program, which shall provide for: (A) The
20 replacement of existing 9-1-1 terminal equipment for each public safety
21 answering point, provided, on and after July 1, 2018, if such public
22 safety answering point serves a population of less than forty thousand,
23 such public safety answering point shall be part of a regional
24 emergency telecommunications center or part of a multitown public
25 safety answering point; (B) the subsidization of regional [public safety]
26 emergency telecommunications centers [, with enhanced subsidization
27 for municipalities with a population in excess of forty thousand] and
28 multitown public safety answering points; (C) the establishment of a
29 transition grant program to encourage regionalization of public safety
30 telecommunications centers; and (D) the establishment of a regional
31 emergency telecommunications service credit in order to support
32 regional dispatch services. For the purposes of this section, "regional
33 emergency telecommunications center" means any entity authorized
34 by the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection as a
35 public safety answering point that is responsible for receiving and
36 processing 9-1-1 calls for at least three municipalities and serves a
37 combined population of forty thousand or more, as determined by the
38 most recent population estimate by the Department of Public Health,
39 and "multitown public safety answering point" means any entity
40 authorized by the Department of Emergency Services and Public
41 Protection as a public safety answering point that is responsible for
42 receiving and processing 9-1-1 calls for two municipalities and serves a
43 combined population of forty thousand or more, as determined by the
44 most recent population estimate by the Department of Public Health;

45 (3) Provide technical telecommunications assistance to state and
46 local police, fire and emergency medical service agencies;

- 47 (4) Provide frequency coordination for such agencies;
- 48 (5) Coordinate and assist in state-wide planning for 9-1-1 and E 9-1-
49 1 systems;
- 50 (6) Review and make recommendations concerning proposed
51 legislation affecting emergency service telecommunications;
- 52 (7) Review and make recommendations to the General Assembly
53 concerning emergency service telecommunications funding; and
- 54 (8) On or before January first of each year, prepare the annual
55 budget for the use of funds from the Enhanced 9-1-1
56 Telecommunications Fund and submit such budget to the Secretary of
57 the Office of Policy and Management for the secretary's review and
58 approval. On or before January fifteenth of each year, said secretary
59 shall submit a report concerning the proposed use of such funds to the
60 joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance
61 of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies,
62 finance, revenue and bonding, and public safety in accordance with
63 the provisions of section 11-4a.
- 64 (b) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection
65 shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, establishing
66 eligibility standards for state financial assistance to local or regional
67 police, fire and emergency medical service agencies providing
68 emergency service telecommunications. Not later than April 1, 1997,
69 the commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter
70 54, in order to carry out the provisions of subdivision (2) of subsection
71 (a) of this section.
- 72 (c) Within a time period determined by the commissioner to ensure
73 the availability of funds for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1997, to the
74 regional [public safety] emergency telecommunications centers within
75 the state, and not later than April first of each year thereafter, the
76 commissioner shall determine the amount of funding needed for the
77 development and administration of the enhanced emergency 9-1-1

78 program. The commissioner shall specify the expenses associated with
79 (1) the purchase, installation and maintenance of new public safety
80 answering point terminal equipment, (2) the implementation of the
81 subsidy program, as described in subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of
82 this section, (3) the implementation of the transition grant program,
83 described in subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section, (4) the
84 implementation of the regional emergency telecommunications service
85 credit, as described in subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section,
86 provided, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2001, and each fiscal year
87 thereafter, such credit for coordinated medical emergency direction
88 services as provided in regulations adopted under this section shall be
89 based upon the factor of thirty cents per capita and shall not be
90 reduced each year, (5) the training of personnel, as necessary, (6)
91 recurring expenses and future capital costs associated with the
92 telecommunications network used to provide emergency 9-1-1 service
93 and the public safety services data networks, (7) for the fiscal year
94 ending June 30, 2001, and each fiscal year thereafter, the collection,
95 maintenance and reporting of emergency medical services data, as
96 required under subparagraph (A) of subdivision (8) of section 19a-177,
97 provided the amount of expenses specified under this subdivision
98 shall not exceed two hundred fifty thousand dollars in any fiscal year,
99 (8) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2001, and each fiscal year
100 thereafter, the initial training of emergency medical dispatch
101 personnel, the provision of an emergency medical dispatch priority
102 reference card set and emergency medical dispatch training and
103 continuing education pursuant to subdivisions (3) and (4) of
104 subsection (g) of section 28-25b, (9) the administration of the enhanced
105 emergency 9-1-1 program by the Office of State-Wide Emergency
106 Telecommunications, as the commissioner determines to be reasonably
107 necessary, and (10) the implementation and maintenance of the public
108 safety data network established pursuant to section 29-1j. The
109 commissioner shall communicate the commissioner's findings to the
110 Public Utilities Regulatory Authority not later than April first of each
111 year.

112 (d) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018, and each fiscal year

113 thereafter, any public safety answering point that serves a population
114 of less than forty thousand that is not part of a regional emergency
115 telecommunications center or part of a multitown public safety
116 answering point shall not be eligible to receive any funds pursuant to
117 this section.

118 (e) (1) If a public safety answering point does not serve a population
119 of forty thousand or more on or after July 1, 2018, such public safety
120 answering point shall reimburse the Department of Emergency
121 Services and Public Protection the cost of replacing and maintaining 9-
122 1-1 terminal equipment and the costs associated with the initial
123 training of emergency medical dispatch personnel, an emergency
124 medical dispatch priority reference card set and emergency medical
125 dispatch training and continuing education pursuant to subdivisions
126 (3) and (4) of subsection (g) of section 28-25b. Such public safety
127 answering point shall only receive 9-1-1 terminal equipment,
128 maintenance and training as provided or approved by the department.

129 (2) Any moneys received by the Department of Emergency Services
130 and Public Protection pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection
131 shall be deposited into the General Fund and shall be credited to the
132 regional emergency telecommunications center account.

133 (3) There is established an account to be known as the "regional
134 emergency telecommunications center account" which shall be a
135 separate, nonlapsing account within the General Fund. The account
136 shall contain any moneys required by law to be deposited in the
137 account. Moneys in the account shall be expended by the
138 Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection for the
139 purposes of subsidizing regional emergency telecommunications
140 centers and multitown public safety answering points on a per capita
141 basis.

142 [(d)] (f) The office may apply for, receive and distribute any federal
143 funds available for emergency service telecommunications. The office
144 shall deposit such federal funds in the Enhanced 9-1-1
145 Telecommunications Fund established by section 28-30a, as amended

146 by this act.

147 [(e)] (g) The office shall work in cooperation with the Public Utilities
148 Regulatory Authority to carry out the purposes of this section.

149 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 28-30a of the general statutes is
150 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
151 *January 1, 2018*):

152 (a) There is established a fund to be known as the "Enhanced 9-1-1
153 Telecommunications Fund". The fund shall contain any moneys
154 required by law to be deposited in the fund, including, but not limited
155 to, any federal funds collected pursuant to subsection [(d)] (f) of
156 section 28-24, as amended by this act, fees assessed against subscribers
157 of local telephone service and subscribers of commercial mobile radio
158 services pursuant to section 16-256g and prepaid wireless E 9-1-1 fees
159 collected pursuant to section 28-30e. The Enhanced 9-1-1
160 Telecommunications Fund shall be held separate and apart from all
161 other moneys, funds and accounts. Interest derived from the
162 investment of the fund shall be credited to the assets of the fund. Any
163 balance remaining in the fund at the end of any fiscal year shall be
164 carried forward in the fund for the fiscal year next succeeding.

165 Sec. 3. Section 4-124s of the general statutes is repealed and the
166 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2015*):

167 (a) For the purposes of this section:

168 (1) "Regional council of governments" means any such council
169 organized under the provisions of sections 4-124i to 4-124p, inclusive;

170 (2) "Municipality" means a town, city or consolidated town and
171 borough;

172 (3) "Legislative body" means the board of selectmen, town council,
173 city council, board of alderman, board of directors, board of
174 representatives or board of the warden and burgesses of a
175 municipality; [and]

176 (4) "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
177 Management or the designee of the secretary; [.]

178 (5) "Regional emergency telecommunications center" means any
179 entity authorized by the Department of Emergency Services and Public
180 Protection as a public safety answering point that is responsible for
181 receiving and processing 9-1-1 calls for at least three municipalities
182 and serves a combined population of forty thousand or more, as
183 determined by the most recent population estimate by the Department
184 of Public Health;

185 (6) "Multitown public safety answering point" means any entity
186 authorized by the Department of Emergency Services and Public
187 Protection as a public safety answering point that is responsible for
188 receiving and processing 9-1-1 calls for two municipalities and serves a
189 combined population of forty thousand or more, as determined by the
190 most recent population estimate by the Department of Public Health;
191 and

192 (7) "Public safety answering point" has the same meaning as
193 provided in section 28-25.

194 (b) There is established a regional performance incentive program
195 that shall be administered by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
196 Management. On or before December 31, 2011, and annually
197 thereafter, any regional council of governments, any two or more
198 municipalities acting through a regional council of governments, any
199 economic development district or any combination thereof may submit
200 a proposal to the secretary for: (1) The joint provision of any service
201 that one or more participating municipalities of such council or agency
202 currently provide but which is not provided on a regional basis, (2) a
203 planning study regarding the joint provision of any service on a
204 regional basis, or (3) shared information technology services. A copy of
205 said proposal shall be sent to the legislators representing said
206 participating municipalities.

207 (c) (1) A regional council of governments or an economic

208 development district shall submit each proposal in the form and
209 manner the secretary prescribes and shall, at a minimum, provide the
210 following information for each proposal: (A) Service description; (B)
211 the explanation of the need for such service; (C) the method of
212 delivering such service on a regional basis; (D) the organization that
213 would be responsible for regional service delivery; (E) a description of
214 the population that would be served; (F) the manner in which regional
215 service delivery will achieve economies of scale; (G) the amount by
216 which participating municipalities will reduce their mill rates as a
217 result of savings realized; (H) a cost benefit analysis for the provision
218 of the service by each participating municipality and by the entity
219 submitting the proposal; (I) a plan of implementation for delivery of
220 the service on a regional basis; (J) a resolution endorsing such proposal
221 approved by the legislative body of each participating municipality;
222 and (K) an explanation of the potential legal obstacles, if any, to the
223 regional provision of the service.

224 (2) The secretary shall review each proposal and shall award grants
225 for proposals the secretary determines best meet the requirements of
226 this section. In awarding such grants, the secretary shall give priority
227 to a proposal submitted by (A) any entity specified in subsection (a) of
228 this section that includes participation of all of the member
229 municipalities of such entity, and which may increase the purchasing
230 power of participating municipalities or provide a cost savings
231 initiative resulting in a decrease in expenses of such municipalities,
232 allowing such municipalities to lower property taxes, and (B) any
233 economic development district.

234 (d) On or before December 31, 2013, and annually thereafter, in
235 addition to any proposal submitted pursuant to this section, any
236 municipality or regional council of governments may apply to the
237 secretary for a grant to fund: (1) Operating costs associated with
238 connecting to the state-wide high speed, flexible network developed
239 pursuant to section 4d-80, including the costs to connect at the same
240 rate as other government entities served by such network; and (2)
241 capital cost associated with connecting to such network, including

242 expenses associated with building out the internal fiber network
 243 connections required to connect to such network, provided the
 244 secretary shall make any such grant available in accordance with the
 245 two-year schedule by which the Bureau of Enterprise Systems and
 246 Technology recommends connecting each municipality and regional
 247 council of governments to such network. Any municipality or regional
 248 council of governments shall submit each application in the form and
 249 manner the secretary prescribes.

250 (e) On or before December 31, 2015, and annually thereafter, any
 251 two or more municipalities establishing a regional emergency
 252 telecommunications center or multitown public safety answering point
 253 may apply to the secretary for a grant to fund operating costs
 254 associated with transitioning an existing public safety answering point
 255 to a regional emergency telecommunications center or multitown
 256 public safety answering point. Such municipalities shall submit such
 257 application in such form and manner as the secretary prescribes.

258 [(e)] (f) The secretary shall submit to the Governor and the joint
 259 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
 260 matters relating to finance, revenue and bonding a report on the grants
 261 provided pursuant to this section. Each such report shall include
 262 information on the amount of each grant, and the potential of each
 263 grant for leveraging other public and private investments. The
 264 secretary shall submit a report for the fiscal year commencing July 1,
 265 2011, not later than February 1, 2012, and shall submit a report for each
 266 subsequent fiscal year not later than the first day of March in such
 267 fiscal year. Such reports shall include the property tax reductions
 268 achieved by means of the program established pursuant to this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	January 1, 2018	28-24
Sec. 2	January 1, 2018	28-30a(a)
Sec. 3	October 1, 2015	4-124s

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

The title was changed for accuracy.

PS *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: See Below

Municipal Impact: See Below

Explanation

The bill modifies certain definitions and grant programs concerning public safety answering points (PSAPs).

Beginning in FY 16, the bill allows municipalities to apply to the regional performance incentive program administered by the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) for grants to assist in the consolidation of PSAPs. The cost to both OPM and participant municipalities for such consolidations will be dependent upon the number and size of municipalities that apply and also the guidelines established by OPM for the program.

Beginning in FY 18, certain municipal PSAPs will become ineligible for state funding of telecommunications equipment which may result in a savings to the state's Enhanced-911 Telecommunications Fund.¹ The fund is anticipated to expend approximately \$12.9 million on such equipment in FY 15. The level of state savings will be dependent upon PSAP consolidations undertaken by municipalities. Municipalities no longer satisfying the funding criteria that do not consolidate are anticipated to incur costs for equipment procurement, installation, and training after FY 18.

The Out Years

¹ The Enhanced-911 Telecommunications Fund is funded by a surcharge on telephone lines paid by users.

State Impact: See Above

Municipal Impact: See Above

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 6970*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONSOLIDATION OF PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINTS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires, by July 1, 2018, public safety answering points (PSAPs) serving 40,000 or fewer people to be part of a regional emergency telecommunications center or part of a multitown PSAP (regionalized PSAPs). PSAPs are 24-hour facilities that receive 9-1-1 calls and dispatch emergency response services (e.g., fire and police) or transfer the calls to other public safety agencies.

The bill also eliminates the enhanced subsidy for municipalities with more than 40,000 residents. By regulation, the state disburses these subsidies based on a formula that considers aggregate population, number of 9-1-1 calls, and number of times emergency services were dispatched (Conn. Agencies Regs. §§ 28-24-1 et seq.).

Under the bill, beginning July 1, 2018, any PSAP that serves fewer than 40,000 people that is not part of a regionalized PSAP must reimburse the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) for certain equipment and training costs. DESPP must (1) deposit this money into the “regional emergency telecommunications center account” the bill creates and (2) use the money to subsidize regionalized PSAPs on a per capita basis.

By December 15, 2015 and annually thereafter, any two or more municipalities establishing a regionalized PSAP may apply to the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) Secretary, in a manner and form he prescribes, for a grant to fund operating costs associated with transitioning from an existing PSAP to a regionalized PSAP.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2018, except the OPM grant provision, which is effective on October 1, 2015.

REGIONALIZED PSAPS

Under the bill, “multitown PSAPs” and “regional emergency telecommunications centers” are DESPP-authorized entities serving as PSAPs, which are responsible for receiving and processing 9-1-1 calls for two or more municipalities with a combined population of 40,000 or more, as determined by the latest Department of Public Health population estimate. A “multitown PSAP” serves two municipalities, while a “regional emergency communications center” serves three or more.

PSAP COSTS

Under the bill, if a PSAP does not serve at least 40,000 people by July 1, 2018, then it must reimburse DESPP for the cost

1. of replacing and maintaining 9-1-1 terminal equipment; and
2. associated with (a) the initial training of emergency medical dispatch personnel, (b) an emergency medical dispatch priority reference card set, and (c) emergency medical dispatch training and continuing education.

PSAPs may only receive DESPP-provided or -approved 9-1-1 terminal equipment, maintenance, and training.

REGIONAL EMERGENCY TELECOMMUNICATIONS CENTER ACCOUNT

The bill requires any money DESPP receives from these municipal costs to be deposited into the General Fund and credited to the nonlapsing “regional emergency telecommunications center account,” which the bill establishes.

The bill requires DESPP to spend this money to subsidize regionalized PSAPs on a per capita basis. For FY 18 and any fiscal year thereafter, any PSAP that serves fewer than 40,000 people and is not

part of a regionalized PSAP is not eligible for these funds.

BACKGROUND

Related Bill

sSB 1071, favorably reported by the Public Safety and Security Committee, requires the implementation of a “next generation 9-1-1 telecommunications system” that enables users to reach PSAPs by transmitting a text message, image, or video.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 20 Nay 3 (03/19/2015)