OLR Bill Analysis
SB 1082 (File 736, as amended by Senate "A")*

AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONSOLIDATION OF PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINTS.

SUMMARY

This bill (1) temporarily modifies the enhanced subsidy payment calculation for regional public safety answering points (PSAPs) serving at least one large municipality and (2) requires the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) to amend its PSAP subsidy regulations to adopt a formula substantially similar to the one the bill establishes (but does not provide a date by which it must do so). The bill also modifies certain responsibilities of the Division of State-Wide Emergency Telecommunication (DSET), within DESPP, related to DSET’s statewide emergency service telecommunications policy.

Under existing law, DSET must administer subsidies to PSAPs, including enhanced subsidies for PSAPs serving municipalities with populations of 40,000 or more. 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 establishes, for a limited time, a modified enhanced subsidy formula for regional PSAPs (defined under existing regulations as those serving three or more municipalities) that serve at least one municipality with a population of at least 100,000 as of July 1, 2016. It also specifies that the subsidies to other PSAPs cannot be reduced as a result of the modified formula.

The bill also requires DSET to examine the use of a cost-of-living adjustment in the formula and report its findings and any recommendations for legislative action to the Public Safety Committee by February 15, 2020, unless it adopts regulations before then.
“Senate Amendment “A” modifies the enhanced subsidy calculation for large PSAPs and requires DSET to (1) amend its regulations to adopt a formula substantively similar to the bill’s and (2) examine the use of a cost-of-living adjustment in its formula and report its findings and recommendations to the legislature.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

ENHANCED SUBSIDY FORMULA FOR LARGE REGIONAL PSAPs

By law, DSET administers subsidies to PSAPs and enhanced subsidies to PSAPs serving municipalities with populations of 40,000 or more. The bill modifies the enhanced subsidy calculation for regional PSAPs that serve at least one municipality that had a population of 100,000 or more on July 1, 2016 (large regional PSAPs).

Modified Enhanced Subsidy Formula

The modified calculation weights the number of calls a PSAP receives more heavily than the size of the population it serves. Except as described below, under the modified formula, a large PSAP’s enhanced subsidy is based on the following:

1. the region’s aggregate population (RPOP), which is the aggregate population of municipalities a PSAP serves (determined by the Department of Public Health’s (DPH) most recent population figures);

2. the regional population value (RPV), which equals 25% of the total FY 18 subsidy paid to all regional PSAPs, divided by the aggregate population of municipalities served by such PSAPs in existence on December 31, 2017;

3. the average number of calls a regional PSAP received over the prior three calendar years (the RCALL); and

4. the regional call value (RCV), which equals 75% of the total FY 17 subsidy paid to all regional PSAPs, divided by total number of 9-1-1 calls received in FY 18 by such PSAPs in existence on December 31, 2017.
The modified calculation is as follows:

\[(RPOP \times RPV) + (RCALL \times RCV)\]

The bill requires the RPV and RCV to be updated annually starting July 1, 2020, for any increase in inflation (based on the consumer price index for all urban consumers during the three calendar years preceding the adjustment, as published by the U.S. Department of Labor’s Bureau of Labor Statistics). However, the bill’s modified formula expires on May 1, 2020, as described below.

The bill includes an exception for member municipalities of a regional PSAP that do not provide emergency police, fire, and medical services and emergency medical dispatch services. Under the bill, the RPOP and RCALL for such municipalities are excluded from the calculation unless the municipality is served exclusively by the state police for law enforcement purposes. In such case, the RPOP and RCALL of such municipalities are included only for the provision of emergency police services.

Under the bill, the modified formula applies to enhanced subsidy calculations for large PSAPs beginning July 1, 2019, and ending on the earlier of (1) May 1, 2020, or (2) the date on which DSET’s amended regulations are posted on the secretary of the state’s eRegulations System. The bill requires DESPP to amend its regulations to adopt an enhanced subsidy formula that is substantially similar to the one the bill establishes.

**Current Enhanced Subsidy Formula**

Under current regulations, the enhanced subsidy calculation for all PSAPs that serve municipalities with a population of at least 40,000, (including large PSAPs) is based on the (1) the aggregate population of the municipalities the PSAP serves, (2) the percent of 9-1-1 calls above the state median it receives, (3) the number of emergency services for which it dispatches calls (i.e., fire, police, or emergency medical services), and (4) a base dollar amount modified by the average growth rate of the consumer price index.
DSET EMERGENCY SERVICES TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY

The bill requires DSET to establish incentives, rather than just a transition grant program, to encourage PSAPs to regionalize. It requires the DESPP commissioner to include the costs of such incentives in its annual report to the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority on the E 9-1-1 program's funding.

Existing law requires DSET to review and make recommendations on emergency service telecommunication funding to the General Assembly. The bill requires it to include ways to reduce costs by removing barriers to PSAP consolidation.

The bill additionally specifies that DSET must, when coordinating and assisting in state-wide planning for 9-1-1, E 9-1-1, and the next generation 9-1-1 telecommunications systems, focus on facilitating the regionalization of PSAPs.

BACKGROUND

E 9-1-1 program

DSET administers the state's E 9-1-1 program (CGS § 28-24). By law, E 9-1-1 is a service consisting of telephone network features and PSAPs provided for users of the public telephone system, enabling such users to reach a PSAP by dialing the digits "9-1-1." Such service directs 9-1-1 calls to appropriate PSAPs by selective routing based on the geographical location from which the call originated and provides the capability for automatic number identification and automatic location identification features. The E 9-1-1 system is funded by fees assessed against subscribers of local telephone and wireless and prepaid wireless services.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Planning and Development Committee

Joint Favorable
Yea 21  Nay 0  (03/29/2019)