OLR Bill Analysis
SB 1082

AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONSOLIDATION OF PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINTS.

SUMMARY

This bill modifies certain responsibilities of the Division of State-Wide Emergency Telecommunication (DSET), within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP), related to DSET’s statewide emergency service telecommunications policy.

Under the bill, DSET must establish incentives, rather than just a transition grant program, to encourage public safety answering points (PSAPs) to regionalize. (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 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.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2019

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)