



Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee

64th Montana Legislature

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SONJA NOWAKOWSKI, Lead Staff
TODD EVERTS, Staff Attorney
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August 25, 2016

TO: Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee (ETIC)

FR: ETIC staff

RE: Next-Generation 911 Draft Report and Draft Legislation Public Comment

During the July ETIC meeting, members requested amendments, as provided by 9-1-1 stakeholders, be incorporated into draft legislation updating Montana's 9-1-1 laws and advancing next-generation 9-1-1. The draft report also was revised to reflect the proposed amendments. The committee also requested that the revised legislation and draft report be posted for a second public comment period.

As guided by House Joint Resolution 7, the committee has reviewed next-generation 9-1-1 (NG911). Early in the interim, the committee asked stakeholders to work on NG911 and to provide recommendations on planning for and implementing NG911. Stakeholders, along with an advisory council formed by the Governor, provided the ETIC with recommendations on how to update Montana's 9-1-1 laws and use NG911 to enhance public safety in Montana. The committee accepted those recommendations and in July agreed to adjust a proposed 9-1-1 funding formula, so it is more equitable to larger public safety answering points. The information out for public comment included:

- LC N911 -- Revise 9-1-1 laws
- Next Generation 9-1-1 Montana's Efforts to Move Forward

The legislation and report were out for a second round of public comment from July 25 to August 25. A request for comment was posted on the ETIC Listserv and notice was sent in a news release.

The committee received one public comment on the 9-11 legislation from Missoula County. The Governor's 9-1-1 advisory council met Aug. 18 and noted its continued support for the legislation. The comment received is attached.

During the September meeting, the ETIC will need to determine if changes should be made to the draft legislation. The ETIC then can determine whether to bring the draft legislation before the 2017 Legislature.

Sonja Nowakowski



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Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee
Legislative Services Division
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Dear Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee Members,

Missoula County is in full support of LCETC04 - Generally Revise 9-1-1 Laws and thanks the committee for its work to address the funding formula. As Montana looks to incorporate Next Generation 9-1-1 standards and technology into current systems, there are several existing challenges to successful statewide implementation. LCETC04 addresses many of the current barriers and offers legislative solutions to help prepare public-safety answering points (PSAPs), large and small, across the state by bringing all PSAPs to a baseline IP network, while acknowledging the need for enhanced GIS data. Additionally, LCETC04 provides for modernization of current statutes to meet new standards, definitions and future technologies that will be necessary to facilitate Next Generation 9-1-1 implementation in Montana.

Missoula County believes formalizing membership of the State 9-1-1 Advisory Board will ensure more inclusion and diversity in considering statewide 9-1-1 issues. Missoula County also favors the proposal to give authority to the Department of Administration to create rules for acceptable use of State 9-1-1 funds. Although general guidelines have existed in the past, we believe the rule making process is a better solution to ensure these funds are spent appropriately by PSAPs. Finally, we support the creation of a grant account to assist PSAPs and telecommunication companies to work collaboratively while also solving the persistent and existing issue of stranded funds in the state 9-1-1 account.

We sincerely thank you for resolving the funding formula as was proposed. As previously drafted in LCETC04, Missoula County would have lost nearly \$190,000 in annual revenue from the State 9-1-1 fund. As a large PSAP, upon whom several smaller PSAPs depend, we could not afford the level of revenue lost under LCETC04. We again thank you for your work to find an alternative funding mechanism and are in full support of LCETC04.

Respectfully,
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Nicole Rowley, Chair



Jean Curtiss, Commissioner



Stacy Rye, Commissioner

BCC/AC