

## **HB 775 – Safety and Wireless 9-1-1 Cost Recovery Bill**

- This bill works to ensure that people who dial 9-1-1 on cell phones are able to be located and rescued by 9-1-1 services across Montana.
- It is in the best interest of the public to ensure there is adequate funding for the deployment and continued delivery of enhanced wireless 9-1-1 service by the public safety answering points (PSAPs) and the wireless providers.
- This bill encourages PSAPs and wireless carriers to implement enhanced 9-1-1 services for cell phones by creating a fund for cost recovery.
- Wireless enhanced 9-1-1 is a lifesaving device that routes the 9-1-1 cell phone call to the appropriate public safety answering points displaying the correct caller id and location information.
- Enhanced wireless 9-1-1 occurs in two phases of deployment. When Phase One is implemented a person may be found in proximity to the cell tower closest to the person's cell phone. When Phase Two is implemented a person may be found by the GPS signal on his/her cell phone to the person's pinpointed exact location.
- Currently, when a person dials 9-1-1 on his/her cell phone, in any and all counties outside of Gallatin and Cascade counties, an emergency provider cannot find the person by his or her exact location.
- This bill establishes a monthly surcharge on mobile phone connections to fund the implementation of wireless enhanced 9-1-1 by wireless providers and county-city PSAP.
- This bill creates a special account with a service charge of 50 cents per month per wireless line that allows the PSAPs and wireless carriers to recover initial and recurring costs.
- The department of Administration shall administer the wireless 9-1-1 fund. The bill specifically divides the account monies into two separate funds to ensure that all wireless providers and PSAPs get cost recovery from the account, based on priority of when implementation costs were submitted to the department.
- PSAPs and wireless providers may recover their actual costs for Phase I and II implementation.
- The Department shall prepare a biannual report on the allocation the account and the biannual audit shall determine if the wireless 9-1-1 surcharge should remain the same.