

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 45

INTRODUCED BY HIMMELBERGER, A. OLSON

BY REQUEST OF THE HOUSE FEDERAL RELATIONS, ENERGY, AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

COMMITTEE

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING AN APPROPRIATE INTERIM COMMITTEE TO STUDY OPTIONS FOR FUNDING MECHANISMS AND ALLOCATIONS FOR DEPLOYMENT OF A STATEWIDE WIRELESS ENHANCED 9-1-1 EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SYSTEM.

WHEREAS, current statewide enhanced 9-1-1 has saved lives across Montana; and

WHEREAS, because most public safety answering points (PSAPs) and wireless telecommunications service providers in Montana have not deployed Phase I and Phase II wireless enhanced 9-1-1 service; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of all Montanans to ensure that there is adequate funding to support the deployment and ongoing delivery of enhanced 9-1-1 service to locate and rescue people who dial 9-1-1; and

WHEREAS, the 2005 Legislature, through the introduction of House Bill No. 775, attempted to authorize and distribute funding for statewide wireless enhanced 9-1-1; and

WHEREAS, the wireless service providers, PSAPs, and public safety agencies could not come to a consensus on a timely, efficient, effective, equitable, and nondiscriminatory funding and distribution mechanism for statewide enhanced 9-1-1 deployment, and as a result, House Bill No. 775 was tabled in committee; and

WHEREAS, the House Federal Relations, Energy, and Telecommunications Committee felt that given the importance of the public safety issues involved and the lack of consensus among the interested parties regarding an appropriate funding and allocation mechanism for enhanced 9-1-1 deployment, an interim study was necessary to investigate and resolve these issues.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

That the Legislative Council be requested to designate an appropriate interim committee, pursuant to section 5-5-217, MCA, or direct sufficient staff resources to study and develop legislation to address appropriate funding of enhanced 9-1-1 deployment in Montana.



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any funding mechanism developed not discriminate among PSAPs
2 or providers of wireless enhanced 9-1-1 service on the basis of rural or urban areas served, size or type of
3 enhanced 9-1-1 service provider, or other potentially discriminatory factors.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a proposed fee, if any, to be imposed on end users be equitable and
5 efficient and that this fee be based on verifiable actual costs that are not proprietary or confidential in nature and
6 that are associated with the provision of enhanced 9-1-1 service in Montana.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the appropriate interim committee, in consultation with all parties,
8 including large and small wireless and wireline providers of enhanced 9-1-1 service, PSAPs, the 9-1-1 Advisory
9 Council, the Public Safety Services Office of the Department of Administration, and other interested parties,
10 propose legislation for consideration by the 60th Legislature of the State of Montana that establishes an
11 appropriate level of funding, if any, and an appropriate funding mechanism by which to facilitate deployment of
12 enhanced 9-1-1 services in Montana that conform to state and federal law.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the study is assigned to staff, any findings or conclusions be
14 presented to and reviewed by an appropriate committee designated by the Legislative Council.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all aspects of the study, including presentation and review
16 requirements, be concluded prior to September 15, 2006.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the final results of the study, including any findings, conclusions,
18 comments, or recommendations of the appropriate committee, be reported to the 60th Legislature.

19 - END -