

SENATE BILL NO. 14

INTRODUCED BY J. ELLIS

BY REQUEST OF THE ENERGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS INTERIM COMMITTEE

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR TRIBAL GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION IN THE 9-1-1 GRANT PROGRAM; AMENDING SECTION 10-4-306, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Section 10-4-306, MCA, is amended to read:

"10-4-306. 9-1-1 grants. (1) The department shall, in consultation with the 9-1-1 advisory council created pursuant to 10-4-105, award competitive grants annually using the account established pursuant to 10-4-304(2)(b) for private telecommunications providers and for local and tribal government entities that host public safety answering points. Beginning July 1, 2018, grants must be awarded to private telecommunications providers; or to local or tribal government entities that host public safety answering points; ~~or both to all~~ in accordance with this section and with rules adopted by the department in accordance with 10-4-108.

(2) In accordance with subsection (3), grants may be awarded to private telecommunications providers and to local or tribal government entities that host public safety answering points for:

- (a) emergency telecommunications systems plans;
 - (b) project feasibility studies or project plans;
 - (c) the implementation, operation, and maintenance of 9-1-1 systems, equipment, devices, and data;
- and
- (d) the purchase of services that support 9-1-1 systems.

(3) In awarding grants, preference must be given to applications in the following order of priority:

(a) requests by private telecommunications providers or by local or tribal government entities that host public safety answering points by working with a private telecommunications provider; and

(b) requests by local or tribal government entities that host public safety answering points.

