



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 583

PRINTERS NO. 645

PRIME SPONSOR: Barrar

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2012/13	FY 2013/14
General Fund	\$0	\$0
Wireless E-911 Emergency Services Fund	\$0	\$0

SUMMARY: House Bill 583, Printer's Number 645, amends Title 35 (Health and Safety) to provide for powers and duties of the PA Emergency Management Agency and the disbursement of funding. This legislation would take effect in 60 days.

ANALYSIS: This bill amends Title 35 (Health and Safety) by authorizing the PA Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) to provide counties cost-saving measures that provide joint purchasing opportunities and facilitate regionalization of technology and consolidation of public safety answering points (PSAPs) and their operations. The agency shall provide suggested industry-acceptable and uniform standards for levels of staffing and operation.

It also adds language related to the disbursement of fund amounts by PEMA stating that no PSAP may be funded for more than 70% of its agency-approved personnel training, salary and benefit costs during the agency's fiscal year. PEMA shall disburse funds to each PSAP and wireless provider for the eligible costs only up to the amount of fund revenue available for distribution during the agency's fiscal year. No costs may be carried forward for payment by the agency in subsequent fiscal years, except that the agency shall fund all approved costs submitted in wireless fiscal year 2012-13 that are applied for in wireless fiscal year 2013-14.

FISCAL IMPACT: Funding for PSAPs will continue to be supported through existing sources such as the Wireless E-911 Emergency Services Fund, as well as wireline and voice over internet protocol providers within counties and pre-paid wireless fees. However, this bill eliminates PSAP carry forward costs from prior years beyond fiscal year 2013-2014, this ensures the solvency of the Wireless E-911 Emergency Services Fund to guarantee that expenditures do not exceed revenues and the fund continues to operate with an available ending balance.

PEMA is currently required to pay for all unpaid, agency-approved costs of the PSAP and is based upon a pro-rata sharing of fund amounts as outlined in statute. Any remaining unfunded, approved requests are then carried forward and continued until all such requests are funded. As reported in the May 2012 Legislative Budget and Finance Committee report on Pennsylvania's 911 Emergency Telephone System, "this practice...limits the amount available to PSAPs for new requests/expenditures. This funding approach also gives counties an

incentive to request as much funding as they can justify, as the amounts approved in one year will be funded in a subsequent year, even if sufficient funds are not available in the initial year.”

For example, this funding disparity between revenues and total expenditures is presented in PEMA’s 9-1-1 Annual Report for calendar year 2011. The agency reported that during FY 2010-11, total funding available to PSAPs was \$192.4 million, which included \$111 million in wireless E-911 funding to 69 PSAPs. However, this does not cover the reported total expenditures requested by the PSAPs of \$272.6 million and results in a carry forward amount of approximately \$80 million of expenditures not covered.

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House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: March 19, 2013

Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.