

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas
2 87th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2009
4

As Engrossed: S3/17/09

A Bill

SENATE BILL 876

5 By: Senator D. Wyatt
6
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AMEND THE ARKANSAS PUBLIC SAFETY
10 COMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1985; TO INCREASE RATES;
11 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
12

Subtitle

14 TO AMEND THE ARKANSAS PUBLIC SAFETY
15 COMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1985 AND TO
16 INCREASE RATES.
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18

19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
20

21 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 12-10-303, concerning definitions in the
22 Arkansas Public Safety Communications Act of 1985, is amended to add an
23 additional subdivision as follows:

24 (29) "Readiness costs" means equipment and payroll costs
25 associated with equipment, call takers, and dispatchers on standby waiting
26 for 911 calls.
27

28 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 12-10-318(b) and (c), concerning emergency
29 telephone service charges, is amended to read as follows:

30 (b)(1)(A)(i) There is levied a commercial mobile radio service
31 emergency telephone service charge in an amount of ~~fifty cents (50¢)~~ sixty-
32 five cents (65¢) per month per commercial mobile radio service connection
33 that has a place of primary use within the State of Arkansas.

34 (ii)(a) A commercial mobile radio service provider
35 may determine, bill, collect, and retain an additional amount to reimburse
36 the commercial mobile radio service provider for enabling and providing 911



1 and enhanced 911 services and capability in the network and for the
2 facilities and associated equipment.

3 (b) The commercial mobile radio service
4 provider may add any amounts implemented under this subdivision (b)(1)(A)(ii)
5 to the ~~fifty cents (50¢)~~ sixty-five cents (65¢) levied in subdivision
6 (b)(1)(A)(i) of this section so that the commercial mobile radio service
7 emergency telephone service charges appear as a single line item on a
8 subscriber's bill.

9 (B)(i) There is levied a service charge of ~~fifty cents~~
10 ~~(50¢)~~ sixty-five cents (65¢) per month on prepaid wireless telephone service
11 subscribers whose mobile set telephone numbers are assigned to the State of
12 Arkansas.

13 (ii) Providers of prepaid wireless telephone service
14 shall collect and remit the service charge under one (1) of the following
15 methods:

16 (a) The CMRS provider shall collect on a
17 monthly basis the ~~fifty cents (50¢)~~ sixty-five cents (65¢) service charge
18 from each prepaid wireless telephone service customer whose account balance
19 is equal to or greater than the amount of the service charge; or

20 (b) The CMRS provider shall divide the total
21 earned prepaid wireless telephone service revenue received by the CMRS
22 provider with respect to each prepaid wireless telephone service customer in
23 the state within the monthly 911 reporting period by fifty dollars (\$50.00)
24 and multiply the quotient by the service charge amount.

25 (iii) In the case of prepaid wireless telephone
26 service:

27 (a) The monthly wireless 911 surcharge imposed
28 by this subdivision (b)(1)(B) shall be remitted based upon each prepaid
29 wireless telephone associated with this state for each wireless service
30 customer that has a sufficient positive balance as of the last day of each
31 month;

32 (b) The surcharge shall be remitted in any
33 manner consistent with the wireless provider's existing operating or
34 technological abilities, such as customer address, location associated with
35 the mobile telephone number, or reasonable allocation method based upon other
36 comparable relevant data; and

1 (c)(1) If direct billing is not feasible, the
2 prepaid subscriber's account may be reduced by the surcharge amount or an
3 equivalent number of minutes.

4 (2) However, collection of the wireless
5 911 surcharge under this subdivision (b)(1)(B)(iii)(c) does not reduce the
6 sales price for any tax collected at the point of sale.

7 (C) There is levied a voice over internet protocol
8 emergency telephone service charge in an amount of ~~fifty cents (50¢)~~ sixty-
9 five cents (65¢) per month per voice over internet protocol connection that
10 has a place of primary use within the State of Arkansas.

11 (D) There is levied a nontraditional telephone service
12 charge in an amount of ~~fifty cents (50¢)~~ sixty-five cents (65¢) per month per
13 nontraditional service connection that has a place of primary use within the
14 State of Arkansas.

15 (E) Except for prepaid wireless telephone service, the
16 service charge levied in subdivision (b)(1)(A) of this section and any
17 additional amounts implemented under subdivision (b)(1)(B) of this section
18 and collected by commercial mobile radio service providers that provide
19 mobile telecommunications services as defined by the Mobile
20 Telecommunications Sourcing Act, Pub. L. No. 106-252, as in effect on January
21 1, 2001, shall be collected pursuant to the Mobile Telecommunications
22 Sourcing Act.

23 (2)(A) The service charges collected under subdivision (b)(1)(A)
24 of this section, less administrative fees under subdivision (c)(3) of this
25 section, shall be remitted to the Arkansas Emergency Telephone Services Board
26 within sixty (60) days after the end of the month in which the fees are
27 collected.

28 (B) The funds collected pursuant to subdivision (b)(1)(A)
29 of this section shall not be deemed revenues of the state and shall not be
30 subject to appropriation by the General Assembly.

31 (c)(1) There is established the Arkansas Emergency Telephone Services
32 Board consisting of the following:

33 (A) The Auditor of State or his or her designated
34 representative;

35 (B) Two (2) representatives selected by a majority of the
36 commercial mobile radio service providers licensed to do business in the

1 state; and

2 (C) Two (2) 911 system employees selected by a majority of
3 the public safety answering point administrators in the state.

4 (2) The responsibilities of the board shall be as follows:

5 (A) To establish and maintain an interest-bearing account
6 in which will be deposited revenues from the service charges levied under
7 subdivision (b)(1)(A) of this section;

8 (B) To manage and disburse the funds from the account
9 levied under subdivision (b)(1)(A) of this section in the following manner:

10 (i) Not less than ~~forty nine percent (49%)~~ eighty-
11 three and five-tenths percent (83.5%) of the total monthly revenues collected
12 and remitted under subdivision (b)(1)(A) of this section shall be distributed
13 on a population basis to each political subdivision operating a 911 public
14 safety communications center which has the capability of receiving commercial
15 mobile radio service 911 calls on dedicated 911 trunk lines for expenses
16 incurred for the answering, routing, and proper disposition of 911 calls,
17 including payroll costs, readiness costs, and training costs associated with
18 wireless, voice over internet protocol, and nontraditional 911 calls;

19 (ii)(a) Not more than ~~forty nine percent (49%)~~
20 fifteen percent (15%) of the total monthly revenues collected and remitted
21 under subdivision (b)(1)(A) of this section shall be held in the interest-
22 bearing account. The board shall report to Legislative Council in the event
23 the sum held under this subdivision becomes less than three million five
24 hundred dollars (\$3,500,000).

25 (b) These funds may be utilized by the public
26 safety answering points for the following purposes in connection with
27 compliance with the Federal Communications Commission requirements:
28 upgrading, purchasing, programming, ~~and~~ installing, and maintaining necessary
29 data, basic 911 GIS mapping, hardware, and software, including any network
30 elements required to supply enhanced 911 phase II cellular, voice over
31 internet protocol, and other nontraditional telephone service.

32 (c) Invoices must be presented to the board in
33 connection with any request for reimbursement and be approved by a majority
34 vote of the board to receive reimbursement.

35 (d) Any invoices presented to the board for
36 reimbursements of costs not described by this section may be approved only by

1 a unanimous vote of the board;

2 (iii) Not more than ~~one percent (1%)~~ five-tenths
3 percent (0.5%) of the fees collected under subdivision (b)(1)(A) of this
4 section may be utilized by the board to compensate the independent auditor
5 and for administrative expenses;

6 (iv) All interest received on funds in the interest-
7 bearing account shall be disbursed as prescribed in subdivision (c)(2)(B)(i)
8 of this section; and

9 (v)(a) All cities and counties receiving funds under
10 this section shall submit to the board no later than March 1 of each year an
11 explanation and accounting of the funds received and expenditures of those
12 funds for the previous calendar year.

13 (b) The board may require any other
14 information necessary to ensure the funds have been properly utilized
15 according to this section.

16 (c) Failure to submit the proper accounting
17 information and failure to utilize the funds in a proper manner may result in
18 the suspension or reduction of funding until corrected;

19 (C)(i) To promulgate regulations necessary to perform its
20 duties prescribed by this subchapter.

21 (ii) In determining the population basis for
22 distribution of funds under subdivision (c)(2)(B)(i) of this section, the
23 board shall determine, based on the latest federal decennial census, the
24 population of all unincorporated areas of counties operating a 911 public
25 safety communications center that has the capacity of receiving commercial
26 mobile radio service, voice over internet protocol service, or nontraditional
27 911 calls on dedicated 911 trunk lines and the population of all incorporated
28 areas operating a 911 public safety communications center which has the
29 capability of receiving commercial mobile radio service, voice over internet
30 protocol service, or nontraditional 911 calls on dedicated 911 trunk lines
31 and compare the population of each of those political subdivisions to the
32 total population;

33 (D) To submit annual reports to the office of the Auditor
34 of State outlining fees collected and moneys disbursed to public safety
35 answering points under subdivision (b)(1)(A) of this section; and

36 (E)(i) To retain an independent third-party auditor for

1 the purposes of receiving, maintaining, and verifying the accuracy of any
2 proprietary information submitted to the board by commercial mobile radio
3 service providers.

4 (ii) Due to the confidential and proprietary nature
5 of the information submitted by commercial mobile radio service providers,
6 the information shall be retained by the independent auditor in confidence,
7 shall be subject to review only by the Auditor of State, and shall not be
8 subject to the Freedom of Information Act of 1967, § 25-19-101 et seq., nor
9 released to any third party.

10 (iii) The information collected by the independent
11 auditor shall be released only in aggregate amounts that do not identify or
12 allow identification of numbers of subscribers or revenues attributable to an
13 individual commercial mobile radio service provider.

14 (3) Commercial mobile radio service providers, voice over
15 internet protocol, or other nontraditional communications providers shall be
16 entitled to retain *one percent (1%)* of the fees collected under subdivision
17 (b)(1)(A) of this section as reimbursement for collection and handling of the
18 charges.

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20 /s/ D. Wyatt
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