



Colorado 9-1-1 Task Force Legislative Subcommittee

Executive Summary of Draft Legislation

The 9-1-1 Advisory Task Force Legislative Committee is drafting revisions to Title 29 Article 11 Part 1 of the Colorado Revised Statutes relating to emergency telephone service. The revisions will correct and update the outdated laws surrounding this critical lifesaving tool.

Background

9-1-1 Governing Bodies in Colorado fund, through a local 9-1-1 surcharge, the basic emergency service infrastructure that is regulated and tarified by the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). 9-1-1 Governing Bodies also fund 9-1-1 equipment and 9-1-1 programs that support 9-1-1, such as emergency notification systems and emergency medical dispatch.

The core of the basic emergency service network is being updated starting in the fall of 2019 to next generation technology that will eventually be able to pass data to the Public Safety Answering Points along with traditional voice. The necessity to support, sustain, and operate 9-1-1 while upgrading existing 9-1-1 technology to meet the needs of the future has introduced new financial challenges for the local 9-1-1 Governing Bodies. The new financial challenge, along with the outdated language in the statute, has compelled the Legislative Committee to start the rewrite process.

Legislative Improvements

- Revise the amount of the 9-1-1 surcharge threshold that triggers the need for PUC approval and add a process for inflation adjustments to the surcharge.
- Allow the PUC and Governing Bodies to confidentially receive information from DOR regarding prepaid 9-1-1 surcharge remittance.
- Increase the wireless prepaid point of sale surcharge to bring the surcharge in parity with postpaid services.
- Clarify language for Governing Bodies and the PUC to audit the 9-1-1 surcharge remitted by carriers.
- Establish a new supplemental 9-1-1 surcharge to fund the next generation 9-1-1 network and other statewide considerations like network diversity, training standards, and public education.
- Update eligible expenditures for the local 9-1-1 surcharge.
- Update definitions and terms used in the legislation to bring it current and aligned with the newly adopted PUC telecom rules and recently approved next generation 9-1-1 tariff.
- Update language for Multi-Line Telephone Systems (MLTS) to align with recently passed federal statute.

Support | Opposition

Key concepts have been discussed at the 9-1-1 Task Force. The 9-1-1 Task Force Legislative Subcommittee is preparing to engage all stakeholders that are impacted by changes in the legislation. The stakeholders include: PSAPs; Governing Bodies; wireless, broadband, and landline carriers and their associations; various public safety associations (NENA/APCO); and the Police Chief's, Sheriff's, Fire Chief's, EMS/Health District associations. The 9-1-1 Task Force will also engage the Colorado Municipal League, Colorado Counties, and Special District Associations. With all of the changes necessary, we anticipate opposition; however, we will strive for collaboration with interested stakeholders.

The Big Picture

Updating Colorado's laws relating to emergency telephone service is critical. As we move from a legacy or analog 9-1-1 network to an upgraded next generation or internet protocol 9-1-1 network, our laws need to reflect what we do, not what we did. Please help us reform 9-1-1 law to create a sustainable model for today's environment and into the future.