

Department of Legislative Services

Maryland General Assembly

2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Revised

House Bill 1078 (Delegates McIntosh and Wood)

Commerce and Government Matters

Finance

Task Force on Enhanced Wireless 911 Service

This bill establishes an 8-member Task Force on Enhanced Wireless 911 Service. The task force must: (1) examine existing State law concerning enhanced wireless 911 service; (2) receive testimony as the task force considers appropriate; and (3) propose any appropriate statutory changes to State law concerning enhanced wireless 911 service. The task force is to report on its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly by December 1, 2001.

The Department of Legislative Services will provide staff for the task force. The bill takes effect June 1, 2001 and terminates December 31, 2001.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill's requirements could be handled with existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Each month every telephone account with a provider, both land-based (wireline) and wireless, pays a 10-cent 911 fee and an additional charge of up to 50 cents.

The additional charge is imposed by each county and is distributed back to the county to help defray the operating costs of the 911 system. Currently only Baltimore City and

Calvert and Queen Anne's counties have an additional charge that is lower than the 50-cent cap.

The Emergency Number Systems Board is responsible for establishing criteria for a request for the reimbursement of costs for enhancing a 911 system by any county or counties, and the procedures to review and approve or disapprove the request. The definition of enhanced 911 includes "other future technological advancements that the board may require." It is not clear whether or not current law includes cost recovery for enhanced wireless 911 service.

Currently no county in Maryland has enhanced wireless 911 service.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 505 (Senators Astle and Miller) – Finance.

Information Source(s): Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader – February 21, 2001
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