



Shelby County Emergency Communications District

3150 Lenox Park Blvd., Suite 108
Memphis, Tennessee 38115-4260

Telephone (901) 380-E911
Fax (901) 380-4707

November 6, 2009

Mr. Harry A. Green
Executive Director
Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations
226 Capitol Blvd. Bldg., Suite 508
Nashville, TN 37243
615.741.3012
615.532.2443 (fax)
www.tn.gov/tacir

Subject: Feedback on the HB 0204 issue and Tennessee's 911 Emergency Communications Funding.

Dear Mr. Green;

I will try and make my points brief and to the point concerning HB0204 and funding Emergency Communication Districts in Tennessee.

HB0204 raises the 9-1-1 Service Fee from \$1.00 per month to \$1.50 per month on all cell phone subscribers in Tennessee.

- Pros: Great for Tennessee 9-1-1 Emergency Communications Districts (ECDs). This will result in additional revenue.
- Cons: Increasing the service fees during current economic times may be hard to handle for some citizens.
Wireless Carriers may also have a strong reaction being forced to increase a monthly fee to a customer's cell phone bill.





Shelby County Emergency Communications District

3150 Lenox Park Blvd., Suite 108
Memphis, Tennessee 38115-4260

Telephone (901) 380-E911
Fax (901) 380-4707

HB0204 increases the percentage of funds that is to be distributed to emergency communications districts from 25 percent to 65 percent.

- Pros: Great for Tennessee 9-1-1 Emergency Communications Districts (ECDs). This will mean additional revenue for each local Emergency Communications District.
- Cons: May harm the State of Tennessee’s Emergency Communications Boards plans for Next Generation Network. This would be a major setback for 9-1-1 in Tennessee. State Board would not have enough funds to position itself for Next Generation 9-1-1 which is a national effort. State Network will allow for transfer of 9-1-1 calls to any 9-1-1 PSAP within Tennessee. State Network will also pave the way for Tennessee 9-1-1 Districts to accept text messages, pictures and video in the near future as standards and specifications for equipment are designed and manufactured.

Alternative: Let the State of Tennessee’s Emergency Communication’s Board set the percentage, yearly so as not to damage the plans that have been in place for several years for a State 9-1-1 network that is going to facilitate the Next Generation 9-1-1 Network. This would lower the 65 percent amount to an amount set by the State of Tennessee Emergency Communications Board that is distributed to each local Emergency Communications District.

Pros: Additional funds would be realized by each Emergency Communications District in Tennessee. The funds may not be as much as with a 65 percent distribution but this would not jeopardize the State Boards plans for a Next Generation 9-1-1 Network that we will definitely need in the very near future. This provides additional funds for each ECD in the State and also allows for enough funds for the State 9-1-1 Board for its statewide plans.

Sincerely,

Raymond Chiozza, Director
Shelby County Emergency Communications 9-1-1 District
(901) 380-3900
email: rchiozza@shelbycounty911.org

