



TACIR

The Tennessee Advisory Commission
on Intergovernmental Relations



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Commission Members

FROM: Cliff Lippard 
Executive Director

DATE: 27 January 2017

SUBJECT: Emergency Communications Services Funding (Public Chapter 795, Acts of 2014)—Update and Panel Discussion

Public Chapter 795, Acts of 2014, created a new funding mechanism for emergency communications services in Tennessee. The Act replaced the two-tier funding system characterized by different 911 surcharge rates for wireline phone and wireless phone service, with a flat-rate surcharge of \$1.16 on both. The Act also required the Commission to study the funding, functionality, and other effects of the Act and report its conclusions to the joint committee on government operations on or before September 15, 2017.

At the December 2016 meeting, the Commission heard from a panel consisting of state and local government officials who work in the emergency communications field. A second panel continues the discussion from the perspective of the telecommunications industry. This panel includes

- Tom Jankowski, director of public policy, AT&T;
- Levoy Knowles, executive director, Tennessee Telecommunications Association;
and
- Mandy Young, attorney, Butler Snow LLP, representing Verizon.