

HB 4651 & SB 400 Talking Points

What will Next-Gen 911 do for Michigan residents?

It will allow greater amounts of data along with, or instead of, the voice call, including videos, crash data from in-vehicle automated systems, and texting, when a caller is unable to speak, affording the speech and hearing impaired community equal access to 911.

Most importantly, it will provide greater accuracy for locating wireless callers, which constitute more than 80% of 911 callers today. It is a replacement of the entire 911 network and infrastructure, not a third party web based supplemental application like Smart911.

How do we get to NG 911?

The first and most critical step is the development of an Internet protocol (IP) network to replace the legacy copper lines.

The current network was designed for hard-wired telephone, utilizing copper lines and call-routing mechanisms decades old. This IP network must be robust enough to handle large amounts of data, while simultaneously being secure and redundant allowing 911 centers throughout the State to share information across county lines.

What is the status of the development of this IP network?

Currently 30 Michigan counties are contracting for an IP Emergency Service network, while others are in the process of researching or developing plans.

The most important issue in this development is the impact on funding. The current funding system is inadequate to fund the new technologies. The primary funding method, known as the U-14000 fund was established in 2004. The fund is currently using its reserves and will be exhausted by early 2018. This funding shortfall has potential impact on all 911 centers and counties, not just those using or moving to an IP-911 network.

Why is this necessary now?

Current events spanning multiple jurisdictions, including mass shootings such as the Kalamazoo tragedy last year, demonstrate the need for a robust 911 system with greater capabilities.

The most critical needs, are greater accuracy in the ability to locate wireless callers in an emergency and system reliability. It is critical that our local 911 centers are able to pinpoint the location of the injured driver of an automobile crash who can't remember where they are, or the father having a heart attack who is unable to catch his breath to give his address before he collapses. The current system is moving today's digital technology through an analog legacy system. The IP Network streamlines the process moving digital 911 calls for help to a robust and redundant digital 911 system increasing the reliability and flexibility of the network. The efficient call processing times and greater call transferability is essential to protecting lives and property in an ever-mobile and complex communications system.

What are the key proposed legislative changes?

- Create a fund (I-Fund) that allows the SNC to approve payment for IP-based 911 network costs that meet standards for redundancy, security, and reliability.
- Provides the State 911 Committee with standing to take legal action if 911 fees are not paid into the fund. In 2013, the SNC brought an action before the MPSC for non-payment of the state 911 fee by a prepaid provider. An administrative judge held that the SNC does not have legal standing to take action on behalf of the state 911 fund.
- Increase the State 911 fee from \$0.19 to \$0.25.
- Adjust the amount collected by retailers on prepaid wireless cards from 1.92% to 4.19%. This is necessary to ensure that prepaid customers are paying the same, equitable amount as postpaid customers. The factoring data last used for prepaid support of 911 was from 2006, prior to the market expansion of prepaid communications.
- Allows a county board of commission to increase the local 911 fee from \$0.42 to \$0.55 without a ballot. The maximum amount a county board of commissioners can levy without having to go to a ballot has remained at \$0.42 since 2008.
- Provides the State 911 Office with additional funding needed to meet the increased duties and levels of services that have been added to the office since its creation in 2004. Including the automation of its databases to track training, reporting, funding data, and notices required under changes in the statute as well as supporting the staffing and service levels to provide the increased program responsibilities of the SNC and the 911 office.
- The total estimated new revenue is \$16,294,761 (\$9,843,270 in prepaid + \$6,451,491 in postpaid).