



Budget Priority

9-1-1 COMMUNICATIONS

PROBLEM

Counties operate and maintain 9-1-1 functions. The funding mechanism used today to help operate, maintain, and upgrade 9-1-1 system capability and performance is out of date and does not correspond to technology and marketplace changes. In addition, too much funding is diverted by the State for non-9-1-1 purposes.

Under current law, \$10 million goes directly to PSAPs and up to \$75 million is set aside for grants and reimbursements to counties administered by the State Interoperable Communications Grants (SICG) program, administered by the Division of Homeland Security. This is not enough to properly maintain existing systems while also preparing to implement the next generation of 9-1-1 technology required under federal law.

2017 EXECUTIVE BUDGET PROPOSAL

The Executive Budget proposal includes legislation to extend the 9-1-1 Public Safety Surcharge from contracted (postpaid) cell phone devices to prepaid devices. This is essential to ensuring all of those who benefit from the system contribute an appropriate share.

The legislation would require sellers to collect a surcharge on the sale of each prepaid wireless communications service or device sold within the state. The market shift from contract plans to prepaid wireless, which is not currently subject to the surcharge, is leading to a decline in revenue. The surcharge currently imposed on postpaid wireless communications service is \$1.20 on each device per month. Under the Governor's proposal, the surcharge would be extended to the sale of each prepaid service or device at the rate of \$0.60 per retail sale of \$30 or less, and \$1.20 per retail sale over \$30.

2017 LEGISLATIVE BUDGET PROPOSALS

The Senate's Budget rejects the Governor's proposal for the surcharge on prepaid wireless communications service and devices.

The Assembly's Budget accepts the Governor's proposal to require sellers to collect a surcharge on the sale of each prepaid wireless communications service or device sold within this state. The prepaid surcharge would be on the sale of each prepaid service or device at the rate of \$0.60 per retail sale of \$30 or less, and \$1.20 per retail sale over \$30. Municipalities would also be authorized to impose a \$0.30 cent similar surcharge on the sale of each prepaid service or device.

COUNTY SOLUTION

This proposal is a step forward in updating the current method of financing our 9-1-1 systems to match the changing marketplace. Unfortunately, while the budget proposal appropriately updates the assessment of the surcharge, it directs none of these new funds to 9-1-1 services.

Under current law, \$10 million goes directly to PSAPs and up to \$75 million is set aside for grants and reimbursements to counties administered by the State Interoperable Communications Grants (SICG) program, administered by the Division of Homeland Security. We believe that all the revenue raised through the modernization of the surcharge should be directed to county 9-1-1 services by increasing the current law appropriations by that amount. Increasing this funding allows counties to maintain systems and upgrade to NextGen 9-1-1 service delivery.

The Governor's budget also modernizes the local surcharge authority granted to counties by extending it to prepaid devices. All but 8 counties currently have a local \$.30 surcharge. We stand ready to work with the legislature to ensure local authority is provided to all and to improve upon the Governor's budget proposal.

For more information on the county position regarding this issue, visit <http://www.nysac.org/publisafety> or call 518-465-1473 to speak to Kate Hohman, NYSAC Program Specialist.