

HB 1768 -- Emergency 911 Service Boards

Sponsor: Hinson

This bill changes the laws regarding county and statewide emergency 911 service boards.

COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICE 911 BOARDS

The bill requires that, beginning with the first municipal election in 2013, every local emergency telephone service 911 board that is appointed by the county commission must have seven elected members as specified in the bill. Of the members first elected, four are to serve two-year terms and three are to serve four-year terms. Thereafter, all members are to serve four-year terms.

The bill also establishes an emergency services 911 board in any county that currently does not already have a board established to oversee emergency 911 service in the county and to administer any funds received by the county from any source for the purpose of establishing, operating, and upgrading an emergency 911 service system, including the central dispatching of any type of emergency services. The board is to consist of seven members elected for four-year terms. The additional powers and duties of the board are specified in the bill.

911 SERVICE OVERSIGHT BOARD

The provisions of Sections 190.400 through 190.440 and 650.320 through 650.340, RSMo, are merged in order to establish a single entity that will oversee emergency 911 services statewide to insure consistent quality and performance. In the merged provisions, the bill:

- (1) Repeals the provisions regarding the Wireless Service Provider Enhanced 911 Advisory Board established in Section 190.410 and renames the Advisory Committee for 911 Service Oversight established in Section 650.325 as the 911 Service Oversight Board;
- (2) Reduces the size of the 911 Service Oversight Board from 16 to seven members;
- (3) Renames the Wireless Service Provider Enhanced 911 Service Fund as the Enhanced 911 Service Fund and lists the approved purposes for which moneys in the fund can be used, including the provision of grants to eligible counties to upgrade their 911 emergency service systems;

(4) Requires the 911 Service Oversight Board annually to prepare a plan, after public comment and review, identifying the 911 project priorities, the projects to be awarded grants, the amount of each grant, the counties receiving a grant, and the criterion and method established for awarding the grants. Additional provisions regarding the grant application procedure, qualifications, restrictions, and grant awards are specified in the bill;

(5) Authorizes the Commissioner of the Office of Administration to levy an enhanced 911 service tax at the rate of one-tenth of one cent on all retail sales made in the state which are subject to taxation under the provisions of Sections 144.010 to 144.525. All revenue from the tax will be deposited in the Enhanced 911 Service Fund. Before the tax can be levied, it must be approved by the voters of the state at the general election in November 2012. Currently, the commissioner is authorized to establish a fee, upon voter approval, not to exceed 50 cents per wireless telephone number per month. The 911 Service Oversight Board is authorized to administer the fund, to distribute the moneys in the fund for approved expenditures, and to retain no more than 2% of moneys in the fund for administration costs and board expenses; and

(6) Moves the provisions regarding the 911 Training and Standards Act to Section 190.445 from Section 650.340.