

HB

186



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Community & Regional Affairs
 Committee Name
 Committee on HB-186 E-911 wireless surcharge Dated April 25, 2001
 Bill / Subject

As the Director of Emergency Operations, FNSB I oversee our current E-911 system operations to include data management. Since 1997, the FNSB has had a 65% surcharge to pay the lease cost of lines, database mgmt. And long term system capital replacement fund.

With the FCC rule change for phase 1 & 2 implementation we have the opportunity to resolve an increasing problem.

Cell phones make up approximately 30% of our E-911 call volume. We do not have the ability to provide automatic number location and automatic location identification. This technology exists but is not implemented due to a lack of funding mechanism & technology decisions.

This bill allows us to proceed at a critical point in the FNSB. We are in the process of Regionalizing our dispatch centers into CAE. Please ensure the ability for local surcharge setting remains in this bill.

THE FNSB MAJOR SUPPORTS HB-186 AND REQUEST YOUR SUPPORT.

SIGNED:

Tim Biggame

Testifier

FNSB EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

Representing

PO Box 71267 Fbks Ak 99707

907-459-1481

Address / Phone Number

STATE OF ALASKA

Department of Health & Social Services
Division of Public Health
Section of Community Health and Emergency Medical Services

TONY KNOWLES, GOVERNOR

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Juneau, Alaska 99811-0616

Telephone: (907) 465-3027
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April 5, 2001

The Honorable Representative Lisa Murkowski
Chair, House Labor & Commerce Committee
Alaska House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 408
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

RE: House Bill 186, An Act relating to a municipal enhanced 911 surcharge on wireless telephones

Dear Representative Murkowski;

Per the request of Representative Halcro at the hearing of the House Labor and Commerce Committee on April 2, 2001, I promised to provide a listing of communities in Alaska that have enhanced 911 capability. Enclosed is a list showing communities with basic 911 capability as well as those with enhanced 911 wire line capability (including automatic number identification and automatic location identification). The data is contained in a report prepared by McDowell Group, Inc. for the Denali Commission and is current through the end of October 2000.

Sincerely,



Mark S. Johnson
Chief
Community Health & EMS

cc: Karen E. Pearson, M.S.
Director, Division of Public Health
Elmer Lindstrom
Special Assistant to the Commissioner, DHSS



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Emergency Services

911 Availability

Community	911 Available	Enhanced 911 Available
Adak	x	
Aleknagik		x
Allakaket	x	
Ambler	x	
Anaktuvuk Pass	x	
Anchorage		x
Anderson	x	
Aniak	x	
Anvik	x	
Atkasuk	x	
Bethel		x
Bettles	x	
Big Lake		x
Buckland	x	
Cantwell	x	
Cold Bay	x	
Cooper Landing		x
Cordova	x	
Craig	x	
Crooked Creek	x	
Deering	x	
Dillingham		x
Diomedes	x	
Dot Lake	x	
Eagle Village	x	
Edna Bay	x	
Ewok	x	
Elim	x	
Fairbanks		x
Fort Yukon	x	
Galena	x	
Golovin	x	
Grayling	x	
Haines	x	
Healy	x	
Healy Lake	x	
Hollis	x	
Holy Cross	x	
Homer		x
Hope	x	x
Hydaburg	x	
Hyder	x	
Igiugig	x	
Iliamna	x	
Juneau		x
Kaktovik	x	
Kenai		x
Ketchikan	x	

Emergency Services 911 Availability

Community	911 Available	Enhanced 911 Available
Kiana	x	
King Cove	x	
King Salmon		x
Kivalina	x	
Klukwan	x	
Kobuk	x	
Kodiak		x
Koliganek	x	
Kotzebue	x	
Koyuk	x	
Levelok	x	
Lower Kalskag	x	
Metlakatla	x	
Meyers Chuck	x	
Naknek		x
Naukati Bay	x	
New Stuyahok	x	
Noatak	x	
Noorvik	x	
Nuiqsut	x	
Palmer		x
Petersburg	x	
Point Hope	x	
Point Lay	x	
Port Graham		x
Port Lions	x	
Red Devil	x	
Ruby	x	
Saint Michael	x	
Sand Point	x	
Selawik	x	
Shageluk	x	
Shaktolik	x	
Shishmaref		
Shungnak	x	
Silka		x
Skagway	x	
Sleetmute	x	
Soldotna		x
South Naknek	x	
Stebbins	x	
Stony River	x	
Talkeetna		x
Tanana	x	
Teller	x	
Tetlin	x	
Tok	x	
Tyonek	x	

Emergency Services
911 Availability

Community	911 Available	Enhanced 911 Available
Unalaska/Dutch Harbor	x	
Upper Kalskag	x	
Valdez	x	
Wainwright	x	
Wales	x	
Wasilla		x
Whale Pass	x	
White Mountain	x	
Whittier	x	
Wrangell	x	

Municipality of Anchorage



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Anchorage, Alaska 99519-6650
Telephone: (907) 343-4431
Fax: (907) 343-4499
<http://www.ci.anchorage.ak.us>

George P. Wuerch, Mayor

March 14, 2001

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

The Honorable Kevin Meyer
Alaska State Legislature
State Capital
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Subject: Surcharge on Wireless Telephones for Use of E911 System

In 1993, Anchorage installed an Enhanced 911 (E911) system. This emergency system provides faster response time, automatic routing to the appropriate emergency response unit, visual display of the location and calling telephone number for wire line 911 emergency response calls.

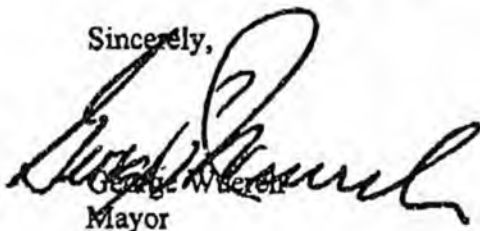
Since the installation of the E911 system, usage of wireless telephones has resulted in quicker notification of emergencies, saved lives and faster apprehension of criminals. Today, in Anchorage, over 25% of all calls to the E911 system originate with a wireless telephone.

As usage of wireless telephones increases, so do the number of calls to the E911 system. Often, multiple calls are received regarding the same incident. An automobile accident on a busy road may result in 25 or more calls to the E911 system, for example. These multiple calls often clog the E911 system, making it difficult for other emergencies to be reported using wire line telephones.

Since 1993 there has been a \$.50 per month surcharge in Anchorage for each local exchange access line (wire line telephones) to help pay for the acquisition, maintenance and operation of the E911 service. Wireless phones are not subject to the surcharge.

The Municipality of Anchorage supports amending AS 29.35.131 to extend the surcharge to wireless phones to pay for the E911 system. The revenue from this amendment would help fund additional staff and equipment needed to effectively handle the additional calls originating from wireless telephones. Your support of this legislation would be greatly appreciated by the Municipality of Anchorage and its citizens.

Sincerely,



George P. Wuerch
Mayor



217 Second Street, Suite 200 • Juneau, Alaska 99801 • Tel (907)586-1325. Fax (907)-463-5480

March 14, 2001

Representative Kevin Meyer
Alaska State Capitol, Room 110
Juneau, AK 99811

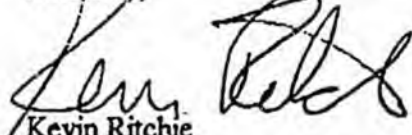
Dear Representative Meyer

We are writing in support for extending the E-911 surcharge to wireless (cellular) telephones at the same rate currently charged to hard-wired phone systems. The AML Public Works & Infrastructure Legislative Subcommittee met on March 14 and unanimously voted to support your efforts to expand the surcharge.

In 1994, the State adopted a bill (supported by AML) allowing municipalities to place a 50 cents to 75 cents per month surcharge on hard-wired telephones to help offset the costs for the critical life-saving services of the "911" emergency telephone system. With the dramatic increase in the use of cellular phones, especially for emergency calls, it is equitable and appropriate to extend the same charge to cellular phones.

We appreciate your interest and if we can help with this or any other municipal issue, please call on me at any time.

Sincerely,



Kevin Ritchie
Executive Director

cc: Public Works & Infrastructure Legislative Subcommittee

CORPORATE INFORMATION CENTER

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[EXECUTIVE SUITE](#)

[WHO WE ARE](#)

[NEWSROOM](#)

[INVESTOR INFO](#)

WIRELESS E-911



BELLSOUTH

RESOURCES

Wireless E911
Legislative Issue:
Question & Answer

About the Technology:

- [911 Call Flow Diagrams](#)
- [Glossary of Terms](#)

[Return to BellSouth Policy Home Page](#)

Questions & Answers

What is "911?"

Since being introduced in 1968, the three-digit telephone number, "9-1-1" has served as the "Universal Emergency Number," for public use throughout the United States to request emergency assistance. It provides the public direct access to Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) responsible for dispatching the appropriate emergency police or fire services. In the 1970's, Enhanced 911 (E911) systems were developed which would enable PSAPS to know the location and telephone number of the handset being used to make the call to 911.

Can wireless phone users make calls to 911?

Yes. There are over 58 million wireless communications subscribers today, and they make 20-25 percent of all calls to 911 and other emergency numbers each year.

If wireless phone users can already access 911, what else is needed?

Landline telephone networks use E911 location technology to determine exactly from where a call is being made. This enables public safety dispatchers to send help quickly even if a caller does not know his or

her exact location. Currently, PSAPs are unable to obtain the automatic number identification (ANI) or automatic location identification (ALI) from many wireless phone networks. ANI and ALI are needed to call back the wireless caller and to pinpoint the geographical location of a call. So today, 911 dispatchers must rely solely on the information provided by a caller to respond to and treat life-threatening situations.

Do wireless callers make a lot of 911 calls?

Wireless phones are used for life-saving communications and are often the only means of communication available. Industry experts estimate that more than 25 percent of the 80,000 wireless phone calls made each day to 9-1-1 and other emergency numbers are unable to be located electronically by

dispatchers. In addition, 90 percent of all wireless 911 calls

are made by highway travelers, many of whom can not effectively describe their location.

What requirements have been placed on wireless carriers to identify the location of wireless calls to 911?

In June 1996, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) issued a directive (FCC Order 94-102) which mandated a two phase implementation of E911 technology by wireless service providers. Under the first phase of the FCC Order, wireless carriers (including BellSouth) must be able to provide emergency dispatchers that want wireless E911 with a wireless caller's number and the location of the nearest cell site. Phase II, beginning in October 2001, requires carriers to identify the location within 125 meters at least 67% of the time.

When will BellSouth be required to provide Wireless E911 service?

BellSouth is already passing all wireless 911 calls, including those made by non-subscribers. In terms of complying with the FCC's Phase I requirements, BellSouth is required to comply with all qualified PSAP requests within six months of the request.

What makes a PSAP request "qualified"?

According to the FCC, a request is qualified if and when (a) a PSAP indicates it has the capability to receive and utilize the numbering and location passed along by the wireless carrier, and (b) there is a cost-recovery mechanism in place.

Who will pay the cost of for providing the new wireless 911 services?

Following the FCC's order, considerable concern has been voiced by wireless industry and public safety groups over the expected high costs of wireless E911. Per the FCC's order, wireless carriers will be able to recover the costs they incur to implement wireless E911. However, the responsibility for setting up a cost recovery mechanism was left up to the states.

What alternatives do states have in setting up funding for wireless E911?

Many states have passed legislation which applies a subscriber surcharge on wireless customers much like the surcharge that has traditionally been applied to wireline service to pay for E911 services.

In most areas, wireline customers currently pay a surcharge for all services. Doesn't that already cover the wireless E911 costs?

No. PSAPs have reported that the current wireline surcharge is not sufficient to cover their expenses for provisioning 911 services to wireless subscribers, who make nearly twenty-five percent of all 911 calls. Moreover, wireless carriers will incur a hefty expense in retrofitting existing systems to meet the new FCC requirements. For these reasons, a feasible cost recovery mechanism is needed to offset the expected high costs of implementing wireless E911.



REPRESENTATIVE KEVIN MEYER

HOUSE DISTRICT 19

SPONSOR STATEMENT

HB 186

“An Act relating to a municipal enhanced 911 surcharge on wireless telephones.”

In 1993, Anchorage was one of the first communities in Alaska to install an Enhanced 911 (E911) emergency system. Several other communities in Alaska now have installed E911 systems, or are in the process of creating an E911 system. The E911 system provides faster response time, automatic routing to the appropriate emergency response unit, and visual display of the location and telephone number of *wireline* calls to assist in response to emergency calls.

Since the installation of the E911 systems, the use of *wireless* telephones has increased in Alaska, resulting in more calls to the E911 system as well as faster notification to local public safety agencies of emergencies. Currently in Anchorage, over 25% of all calls to the E911 system are from *wireless* telephones.

The quick response to emergencies from *wireless* calls, does however, have some drawbacks. A dispatcher receiving a *wireless* call to the E911 system does not get the visual display of the caller's location or the automatic telephone number identification as with a *wireline* call. As a result, the dispatcher must ask for the caller's identity and location to properly route the information to the appropriate emergency response unit. This increases the response time to an emergency.

With the installation of the E911 systems in Alaska, the Alaska legislature passed legislation allowing municipalities to impose a surcharge for each local exchange access line for *wireline* telephones. Municipalities the size of Anchorage are allowed to assess a \$.50 per month surcharge, with smaller municipalities (less than 100,000 people) allowed to assess a \$.75 per month surcharge. This surcharge assists in paying for acquisition, maintenance and operation of the E911 systems throughout Alaska. Wireless phones are not currently subjected to the surcharge.

HB 186 amends AS 29.35.131 to allow municipalities with E911 systems to impose the same surcharge on *wireless* telephones. The revenue from HB 186 will help fund additional staff and purchase necessary equipment to track the source and location of *wireless* phone calls to the E911 system.

LEGAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF LEGAL AND RESEARCH SERVICES
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY
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Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
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MEMORANDUM

March 14, 2001

SUBJECT: Municipal 911 surcharge; summary
(Work Order No. 22-LS0331\F)

TO: Representative Kevin Meyer
Attn: Nancy Manly

FROM: Tamara Brandt Cook
Director *TBC*

Section. 1. The legislature finds that under certain FCC proceedings operation of an enhanced 911 service for wireless telephones would require tracking of calls similar to that provided for wireline calls and would allow for cost recovery by wireless telephone companies.

Sec. 2. Permits a municipality that provides services under an enhanced 911 system to impose a surcharge on each wireless telephone number billed to an address within the service area. Existing law permits a surcharge only on wireline telephones.

Secs. 3 - 8. Technical changes to accommodate the fact that a surcharge may be imposed on wireless as well as on wireline telephones and to consistently use language that is defined.

Sec. 9. Eliminates definition of "911 service area" since the phrase "enhanced 911 service area" is now used consistently.

Sec. 10. Eliminated definition of "system" to reflect consistent usage of "enhanced 911 system." Adds to the definition that a system includes personnel required for its facilities and to dispatch the calls generated by the system. Also adds provision that an enhanced 911 system for wireless telephones is the same system as that used for wireline telephones.

Sec. 11. Add three new definitions: "wireless telephone," "wireless telephone company," "wireline telephone."

TBC:lmb
01-099.lmb

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2001 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
 Bill Version: _____
 (H) Publish Date: _____

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: _____
 Title: HB 186 911 Surcharge on Mobile Telephones

Sponsor: Rep. Meyer Component: _____
 Requester: HC&RA Component Number: _____

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2001) cost: 0.0

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

HB 186 is enabling legislation. HB 186 allows municipalities to collect a surcharge on mobile telephones. It does not mandate a surcharge.

Prepared by: Lorali Meier, Committee Aide HC&RA Phone 465-6588

Representative _____ Date 2/16/01
 Committee Chair

**MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
2001 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM
PRIORITY LEGISLATIVE ISSUES**

TITLE: E-911 Surcharge on Wireless Telephones

In 1993, Anchorage installed an Enhanced 911 (E-911) emergency system. This system provides faster response time, automatic routing to the appropriate emergency response unit, visual display of the location and calling telephone number.

Since the installation of the E-911 system, usage of wireless communication devices, such as cellular telephones has resulted in quicker notification of emergencies, saving lives and resulting in faster apprehension of criminals. Today, over 25% of all calls to 911 originate with a cellular phone.

As usage of wireless devices increases, so do the number of calls to 911. Often, multiple calls are received regarding the same incident. An automobile accident on a busy road may result in 25 or more calls to 911, for example. These multiple calls often clog the E-911 system making it difficult for other emergencies to be reported.

Since 1993 there has been a \$.50 per month surcharge in Anchorage for each local exchange access line to help pay for the acquisition, maintenance and operation of the Enhanced 911 (E-911) emergency service. Wireless phones are not subject to the surcharge.

The Municipality of Anchorage supports amending AS 29.35.131 to authorize a 911 surcharge on wireless phones. The revenue from this amendment would help fund additional staff and equipment needed to effectively handle the additional calls originating from wireless telephones.

**Contact: Mark Mew
Acting Police Chief**
Phone: 786-8552