



FSA Supports SB 294 by Senator Hays and HB 175 by Representative Steube – E-911 Prepaid Wireless

Since 1999, a fifty cent (.50) E911 fee on landline and wireless phones ensured that all 911 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP's) within the State could implement and support technology to deliver accurate emergency location information to citizens and visitors who need assistance. The funds collected by these fees have supported local counties and sheriffs who are responsible for ensuring that when a citizen calls 911 in an emergency the citizen receives the care and service they need.

In 2007, the legislature implemented a moratorium on the fee for only one sector of the wireless market – prepaid plans. The suspension was based on complaints from the wireless community that there was no consistent method by which prepaid providers could collect the fee as there were no monthly contracts. Prior to 2007 all wireless providers collected the E-911 fee. As the prepaid market was small in 2007, the impact of that decision would not be felt until that market began to explode in 2010. Conversely, all land line and other wireless providers continued to collect the fee creating an inequitable result for providers and consumers. Currently, the prepaid wireless users make up an estimated 23% of the market and growing each year. While the prepaid programs do not pay a E-911 fee because the legislature has not created a mechanism for collection, the rest of wireless and landline users (about 77% of the users) are paying the monthly fee to support E-911 for all users. The moratorium on the fee for prepaid providers ended in July 2013 but there was no process by which the fee can be collected by prepaid providers as they are unique and do not have monthly service contracts like traditional land and wireless providers.

SB 294 and HB 175 are supported by all stakeholders including, wireless, land, prepaid, retailers and law enforcement. All agree that the collection process at point of sale is the appropriate mechanism and will allow for competitively neutral contribution by the wireless and landline providers - applied uniformly and imposed throughout the state. This legislation passed the House unanimously in 2013.

Significantly, since 2007, there have been 32 other states that have implemented this point of sale methods for collecting the prepaid fee successfully.

Why the Florida Sheriffs Association SUPPORTS SB 294 and HB 175:

The legislation lowers the E-911 fee to .46 creating a fee decrease for the majority of the customers who have been paying .50 since 1999.

The continued decline in wireless and landline users has created a serious concern that our E-911 PSAP's will not be able to continue to implement technology advancements such as texting and video capabilities – critical components of today's populations.

Support SB 294 by Senator Hays and HB 175 by Representative Steube to collect the 911 fees on “Prepaid Providers” for critical E-911 needs

