



## Collection of E911 Wireless Prepaid Fees

**Issue:** Monthly E911 fees on landline and wireless phones were established in 1999 to ensure that all 911 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP) within the State could implement and support technology to deliver accurate emergency location information to citizens and visitors who need assistance. The suspension of these fees for one sector of the wireless market has caused a hardship on the ability to properly fund the county E911 systems and is a public safety concern for Sheriffs and law enforcement.

**Background:** Florida's E911 system is governed by a board, comprised of local E911 County Coordinators, wireless and non-wireless service providers, that works to implement the Wireless Emergency Communications Act. Prior to the 2007 Legislative session, the 911 fee was assessed on all wireless phone plans, including prepaid plans. At that time prepaid plans were a very small percentage of all wireless phone plans. The 2007 Legislature instituted a moratorium on the collection of the Prepaid Wireless fee, because it was not being collected consistently and questions were raised about how the fee would be collected. Meanwhile, all other wireless and landline providers continued to collect the fee. The Legislature also directed the E911 Board to conduct a study that would determine the most feasible method of collecting this fee. The study revealed that the best method of collection for these Prepaid Wireless providers was at the point of sale. The 2010 Legislature extended the moratorium to July 1, 2013 providing ample time for the impacted parties to determine the most efficient and equitable manner to implement the fee.

### Current Landscape:

- Lifting the suspension on the collection of these fees is essential to allow Florida to upgrade mission critical E911 equipment to meet the constant advances in technology such as Next Generation 911 (NG-911).
- The moratorium is set to expire July 2013 and an agreement has been reached by the stakeholders on a collection method – at the point of sale.
- Wireless “Prepaid” programs are increasing in popularity and many customers are moving from contract based wireless to prepaid or “pay as you go” programs - over the last three years, the prepaid market share has increased to 21% - significantly impacting revenues for critical E911 needs.
- 25 other states have implemented this point of sale methods for collecting the prepaid fee successfully.
- The collection of the E911 prepaid wireless fee will allow for competitively neutral contribution by the wireless and landline providers - applied uniformly and imposed throughout the state.

**Support HB 807 by Rep. Steube and SB 1070 by Sen. Hays to collect the 911 fees on “Prepaid Providers” for critical E-911 needs**

