



2021 Legislative Session

LEGISLATIVE PACKET

Montana State Library

HB 50

Short Title: Redistribute 9-1-1 funding to the State Library

Date: 12/15/2020

Representative Frank Garner, HD 7
Senator Janet Ellis, SD 41

Sponsors

Contact Information

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Executive Summary

Short Title: Redistribute 9-1-1 funding to the State Library

1. **Synopsis:** This legislation is proposed by the Legislative Finance Committee. It would redistribute a portion of the State 9-1-1 fund to the Montana State Library for the purposes of assisting local governments to create, improve, and maintain data necessary to support modern 9-1-1 systems in the State of Montana.
2. **Fiscal Impact:** Yes No Uncertain
3. **Opposition Expected:** Yes No Uncertain

Interest Group	Position	Comments
Montana Library Association	Support	
Montana Telecommunications Association	Support	Their support is dependent on funding coming off the top of the current 9-1-1 fund distribution, not out of the available grant funds
Dept. of Administration	Uncertain	The Public Safety Services Bureau would prefer to find a new sources of funds for NG 911 because there is precedent for the current funds to support Enhanced 911 and wireless cost recovery. ** funding GIS also benefits Enhanced 911 while at the same time prepare Montana for a move to NG 911.
Charter/Spectrum	Uncertain	
Montana Association of Counties	Uncertain	MACo has requested information from the Dept. of Administration about how this legislation would impact the current distribution of funds to PSAPs. Another concern raised is that this bill might set precedent for further chipping away at an already limited source of funds. **Because funds are so limited it behooves the state to ensure that we are maximizing how we spend those dollars to leverage those dollars most effectively. This bill does that.
	Please Select	

4. Contact Person(s):

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Agency: Montana State Library

Section Analysis

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Bill Section	Current Law Summary	Proposed Amendment Rationale
1	Establishes the distribution of 9-1-1 funds between program administration and a grant program.	Establishes an exception to the current distribution to allow for the funding of the GIS Mapping Fund
2	Establishes the 9-1-1 account to collect state special revenue and establishes the disbursement account between the Dept. of Administration to operate the program, Public Safety Answering Points, and the grant program.	Cleans up time-bound language from 2017 legislative updates and stipulates that \$450,000 per year will be transferred from the 9-1-1 account to the GIS mapping account. The legislation further stipulates a sunset date of 2030.
3	N/A	Establishes a GIS mapping account to receive 9-1-1 funds as per section 2.
4	Lists existing statutory appropriations	Adds the appropriation created in section 3.

Questions & Answers

Short Title: Redistribute 9-1-1 funds to the State Library

Question	Answer
What is the source of 9-1-1 funding in Montana?	A fee of \$1 a month per access line for each subscriber in the state is imposed to administer 9-1-1 in Montana.
How is the revenue currently appropriated?	\$.75 of the fee is imposed to administer the 9-1-1 program and \$.25 is appropriated to the 9-1-1 grant program. Fees are collected in a state special revenue account administered by the Department of Administration. After the Department covers their administration costs, 75% of the remaining funds is distributed amongst Public Safety Answering Points and 25% is distributed to the 9-1-1 grant account.
Why should the State Library receive 9-1-1 funds?	MSL is the steward of statewide geographic information systems (GIS) data for the State of Montana. MSL helps local governments create and maintain GIS data and aggregates that data into statewide data sets for use in GIS systems. Among our charges are the creation, maintenance, and dissemination of address points, government boundaries, and road centerlines, data required for NG911 systems.
How does Next Generation 9-1-1 differ from current 9-1-1 systems?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Montana’s current Enhanced (E)911 systems, emergency calls are located and routed to the 911 call center, or Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP), by the telephone service provider based on a series of database tables that associate a landline phone number with an address location. • In the current E911 system, emergency calls placed from wireless phones use the location of the cell tower the phone connected to, which could be miles from the caller’s actual

	<p>location.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NG911 calls will be located and routed using the actual device location (like how Google or Apple Maps displays a phone's location) and GIS data to determine which PSAP to route the call to in real time, as the call is placed.
What kinds of GIS data are necessary to support NG 9-1-1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To match 911 calls to GIS data, PSAPS must have accurate and up to date address points and GIS data of all road networks. • To ensure accurate and timely 911 call routing, Montana will need GIS data of PSAP boundaries, developed in coordination with neighboring PSAPs, to ensure there are no gaps or overlaps in service areas.
Does Montana have the data we need to implement NG 9-1-1?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. With funding appropriated by the Legislature from State 911 funds, during the 2019 biennium, MSL contracted with Digital Data Technologies, Inc. to assess the completeness and accuracy of Montana's existing data. Current national standards require 911 GIS data to be 98% complete and accurate. The results of Montana's assessment determined that, on average, our data is only 49% ready for NG911. • Most PSAPs have not mapped their PSAP boundaries, the most critical GIS layer for NG911.
What, if anything, is the State currently doing to address this data gap?	<p>Two sources of grant funds are available to help local governments assess and improve their 9-1-1 data, the 9-1-1 grant program and the Montana Land Information Act grant program. In the last five years 32 counties, and five cities have been awarded grants.</p>
How will the State Library use 9-1-1 funds to resolve this problem?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSL will procure software and/or a cloud-based application for use by all PSAPs in Montana to perform ongoing assessment of their data as they make data improvements. This service would give PSAPs feedback on errors found or needed improvements • MSL GIS staff will assist those PSAPs that lack the resources necessary to create and update their GIS data. • MSL will coordinate the development of statewide PSAP boundary layer first, then other required emergency services boundary layers (fire, law, EMS).
Why is a statewide approach preferred over the current data development process?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data assessments <p>To detect where there might be gaps or overlaps in PSAP boundaries, or duplicate or missing address points or road centerlines assessments need to both analyze data both within a PSAP, and between PSAPs. This work is most efficiently done statewide.</p> <p>Current GIS data assessment work occurs in those counties with dedicated GIS resources and/or is funded through one-time-only grants. By procuring an assessment service and providing GIS staff support, MSL can ensure that all PSAPS have access to the resources they need so that no PSAPs are left behind.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GIS data development <p>PSAP boundary layers are currently being developed by some PSAPs but the approaches taken to develop the boundaries vary greatly. Some PSAPs likely base their PSAP boundary on an existing boundary such as their E911 Emergency Service Zone boundaries or their county boundary. Other PSAPs coordinate with neighboring PSAPs to identify where their shared boundaries should be. Other PSAPs likely have not started to map their boundaries. The most efficient way to ensure PSAP boundaries are ready for NG911 is to coordinate their development and test for gaps or overlaps at the statewide level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost efficiencies <p>In FY 21, the 911 grant program will fund GIS data assessments for 10 PSAPs at a cost of \$168,000. If all PSAPs funded this work individually, MSL estimates the cost to be \$850,000 to \$950,000 annually. Procuring this service for the State is a far more cost effective use of 911 funds, it ensures that the service is available for all PSAPs, not just those who receive grant funds, and it eliminates the redundancy that exists when individual PSAPs procure this service.</p>
<p>Do federal requirements for the use of 9-1-1 funds allow them to be spent for GIS data development?</p>	<p>Yes. States including Virginia, Kansas, North Dakota, and Utah use a portion of their 9-1-1 surcharge to fund GIS data management.</p>
<p>Notable Legislative History</p>	<p>In 2017 the Legislature appropriated \$80,000 to complete a on time assessment of the State’s data readiness to support modern 9-1-1 systems. That study found that none of the PSAPs in Montana met the minimum 98% threshold for all the required data for NG911. Many PSAPs did not have all the required layers and/or were below the 98% minimum for accuracy and completeness.</p> <p>This legislation was drafted during the interim by the Education Subcommittee of the Legislative Finance Committee as part of the House Bill 633 interim study of the State Library budget.</p>
<p>Related bills</p>	<p>LC 0861 The intent of the bill is to apply the 911 tax currently charged to other phones to prepaid phones, something that does not already exist in Montana. The revenue would go into the 911 special revenue account and is not earmarked for any specific purposes. I do not know how much revenue the new tax might generate.</p> <p>This is a positive bill as it relates to the 911 funding bill for the State Library in that it could increase the overall revenue in the 911 fund and minimize any negative impacts of the reduced distribution to PSAPs as a result of the appropriation to the State Library.</p>