

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Carrier – House: Rep. Read  
Carrier – Senate: Sen. Winters

**Revenue:** Revenue statement issued

**Fiscal:** Fiscal statement issued

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**Action:** Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure as Amended and as Printed B-Engrossed

**Vote:** 25 – 1 – 0

House

Yeas: Barker, Buckley, Frederick, Hanna, Huffman, Jenson, Komp, McLane, Nathanson, Read, Richardson, Smith, Tomei, Williamson

Nays: Freeman

Exc:

Senate

Yeas: Bates, Devlin, Edwards, Girod, Hansell, Johnson, Monroe, Steiner Hayward, Thomsen, Whitsett, Winters

Nays:

Exc:

**Prepared By:** John Borden, Legislative Fiscal Office

**Meeting Date:** July 7, 2013

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Relates to the emergency communications tax. Extends sunset date for emergency communications tax from January 1, 2014 to January 1, 2022. The amendment deletes an obsolete section of law related to provider tax remittance. The extension of this tax requires approval by a three-fifths majority of each chamber. The measure would take effect on the 91st day after the day of which the Legislature adjourns.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Revenue impact
- Fiscal impact

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Replaces the measure.

**BACKGROUND:** The current emergency communications tax is set to expire on January 1, 2014. There have been six sunset extensions of this tax since 1981. The tax rate is \$0.75 cent per month per device capable of accessing 9-1-1 services, with the exception that federal, state, and local governments are tax exempt. The tax rate is set in statute and has been unchanged at \$0.75 since 1995. The tax is collected by phone companies and wireless providers each month and then remitted to the Department of Revenue. The tax is used to pay for the Department of Revenue's collect costs (up to one half of one percent), the Military Department's - Office of Emergency Management program's administrative costs and 9-1-1 training conducted by the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (up to 4%); and statewide equipment and circuit charges (35%). The remaining revenue is distributed primarily to cities and counties on a quarterly basis to fund over 45 Public Safety Answering Points across the state (60.5%). Funds are distributed on a per capita basis; however, each county must receive a minimum of one percent of the net account balance.