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Our Vision: "Embrace a vibrant and growing organization characterized by member support, professional development and stakeholder education."

TO: Members of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Public Safety
FROM: Hasina Wittenberg, APCO/NENA
DATE: March 24, 2021
RE: **Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 5535 - OMD Budget**

INTRODUCTION

Members of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Public Safety, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. For the record, my name is Hasina Wittenberg and I appear before you today on behalf of the Oregon Chapters of the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO) and National Emergency Number Association (NENA) to provide testimony in support of the Oregon Military Department's budget SB 5535.

BACKGROUND – TAX AND FUNDING

In 1981 the Oregon Legislature issued a mandate for statewide 9-1-1 services and instituted a 3% surcharge on subscriber's telephone lines. At that time there were over 280 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) in Oregon with only a few providing basic 9-1-1 service, and none provided Enhanced 9-1-1 service.

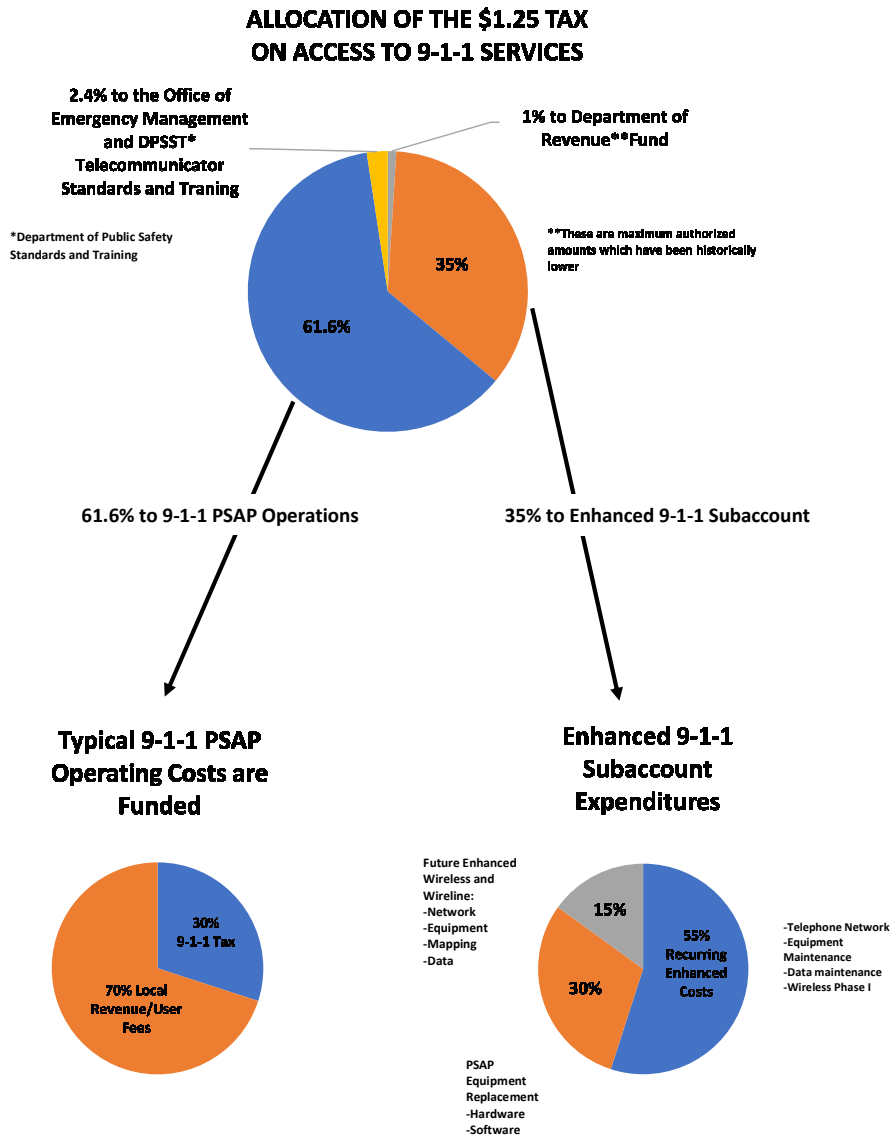
The 1991 legislature increased the surcharge to 5% and mandated Enhanced 9-1-1 service (9-1-1 caller's address and responsible police, fire and EMS provider displayed to the call-taker). However, in 1995 the 5% surcharge was converted to an approximate equivalent 75-cent surcharge to provide the 9-1-1 program with greater revenue stability and predictability. In 2019, the legislature approved HB 2449 which increased the 9-1-1 tax by 25 cents on January 1, 2020 and another 25 cents on January 1, 2021. Revenue is distributed as follows:

- ✓ 61.6% of the revenues are distributed to public safety answering points for operation of the state's 43 PSAPs. Distribution is in proportion to population, except that no county receives less than 1% of the distribution. The funds may not be used for PSAP operations unless they are directly related to 9-1-1.
- ✓ 35% of the revenues are managed by Oregon Emergency Management (OEM), a Division of Oregon Military Department, to pay for PSAP common network services, Federal Communications Commission Phase I and II wireless services, costs associated with the Enhanced 9-1-1 program which include network, database, equipment, and other costs related to providing state-wide wire line and wireless 9-1-1 services.

- ✓ 2.4% (no more than this amount) of revenues may be used by the Oregon Emergency Management to pay for OEM 9-1-1 program administration and Telecommunicator training at the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST).
- ✓ 1% of the revenues are distributed to the Department of Revenue for administrative processing cost recovery.



The Funding of 9-1-1 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) in Oregon (2021)



OMD BUDGET OREGON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT 9-1-1 PROGRAM

9-1-1 revenue is an essential funding component of the local 9-1-1 system. These revenues make up approximately 30% of a 9-1-1 center's operating revenue.

Oregonians expect basic 9-1-1 service for emergencies. We support OMD's budget and the 9-1-1 program contained within SB 5535.