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## Summary of Senator Jauch's Wireless 911 Proposal

- Creation of wireless 911 board.
- Wireless surcharge of 75 cents per month on each cell phone with a billable address within the state.
- Surcharge may not exceed \$1 dollar.
- No more than 35% of moneys received from the surcharge would be distributed to industry providers. In addition, industry providers may retain 2% of the surcharges collected for administrative costs. This will apply for the first 16 months from the effective date of the bill.
- No more than 64% of the surcharges collected would be distributed to local governments that operate public service answering points [psaps]. 2% of this amount would be set aside for supplemental grants to under served areas.
- Distribution to local units would be based on the % of the state's billable address total that is located within a local service area. – Estimates: 1.7 million wireless customers in state. Milwaukee has a minimum of 15% of billable addresses, or approximately 247,500. Estimated annual minimum payment = \$1.4 million.
- Allowed grants uses: "For actual expenses that are directly and primarily incurred for leasing, purchasing, operating or maintaining a wireless public safety answering point..."

## Wireless 911 Proposal

Sen. Leibham and Sen. Fitzgerald  
Rep. Montgomery and Rep. Jensen

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has mandated, through the Wireless Communications and Public Safety Act of 1999, that significant improvements to the state's wireless 911 system be made soon so that all 911 calls made from a wireless phone are routed directly to the nearest Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) and that these PSAPs have the ability to track the approximate location of the caller. We are all painfully aware of the tragic situation of a Beloit area woman last year who was repeatedly assaulted even after she had successfully called the local 9 11 dispatcher but was prevented from disclosing her whereabouts by her assailant. If this Automatic Location Identification (ALI) technology had been in place, the 911 dispatcher would have been able to quickly determine the approximate location of the woman from her cell phone handset and alert nearby law enforcement of her need for help. The hope is that with the prompt deployment of a nationwide, seamless communications infrastructure that includes wireless communications our public safety professionals will be better able to respond to emergencies by automatically tracking the location of the call and better utilize the information that the public provides them during these emergencies.

This proposal would:

- Direct the Public Service Commission (PSC) to administer the program. No new board would be created. Given the state's fiscal condition, we did not want to create more bureaucracy or unnecessarily increase the cost of this worthwhile program.
- Direct the PSC to research and verify the actual costs of improving the state's wireless 9 11 system. To date, it has been very difficult to determine how much this upgrade will actually cost local governments, the state and telecommunications providers. Rather than base our cost estimates solely on the experience of another state, we believe the PSC has the expertise and experience to figure out what system and technology upgrades are needed and the most cost effective way to pay for those costs. We will instruct the PSC in this legislation to do all that it can hold down costs and encourage consolidation and efficiencies. Once the PSC has determined how much this mandate will cost, the PSC will set a monthly surcharge that will appear on cell phone bills as the "Wisconsin Wireless 911 Surcharge". The Joint Finance Committee will have passive review of this decision and any future decisions to increase the surcharge.
- Clearly limit the PSC's authority over wireless providers to just gathering the necessary information to estimate the cost of this system upgrade.

- Sunset the program and surcharge after 3 years. If there is more work to be done at that time, a future legislature will need to introduce legislation to extend the program.
- Encourage consolidation and efficiency by financially rewarding local governments that agree to work together by combining PSAPs into regional systems. The state will reimburse the eligible costs of only 1 PSAP per county. We want to encourage and reward efficiency and cooperation.
- Define very specifically what actual costs will be eligible for reimbursement from this fund. We want the PSC to make it very clear from the start what is expected from the local municipalities and what the state is willing to pay for this system upgrade. Our goal is for everyone involved to know up front what is expected of them and what they can expect for reimbursement from the state.
- Reimburse PSAPs and telecommunications providers for 100% of their eligible costs once their application has been thoroughly reviewed and approved by the PSC. The PSC, by carefully scrutinizing each proposal, will be able to hold down the costs of this upgrade so that we can reimburse 100 % of the eligible costs of each approved project, not just part of the costs as in some past proposals. Our hope is to have an adequate funding source for this mandate so that local taxpayers will not have to pick up any of the costs. The PSC would reject any application in part or in whole that sought reimbursement for ineligible costs.

**DRAFT**

Dear County Executive Walker:

As supporters of Governor Doyle's pledge not to raise state taxes, we share a tremendous responsibility to minimize the property tax implications that may result from a freeze or decrease in county and municipal state aids.

That is why today we are respectfully requesting that negotiations begin on the consolidation of City and County emergency 911 telephone services.

Specifically, we are proposing that the new, state-of-the-art, Milwaukee Police Department's Communication Center become home to a centralized, public safety emergency call center.

There are two key reasons to begin the discussions now.

First and foremost, is the public safety of our citizens. The Federal Communications Commission has made it quite clear that wireless 911 emergency phone service must be operational no later than December 2005.

Our response to that is "why wait"?

The sooner we can implement this critical public service, the better served our citizens will be.

The City's Police Communication Center will have a new Computer Aided Dispatch [CAD] system operational this summer. In addition to the new CAD system, an entirely new 911 emergency telephone network will be in place. This system will be able to receive and route calls faster than any system to date, saving precious seconds from the time a call is received to when it is dispatched.

In 2002, our Police Communications System received over one million calls. Over half of those were 911 related. An additional 300,000 wireless 911 calls are expected once the system is in operation. Obviously, having a system in place to provide efficient and rapid response to that number of calls is necessary.

In June of 2004, the new 911 emergency telephone network will be equipped to commence wireless emergency 911 calls, including critical location mapping information.

The second reason to begin negotiations now relates to money – how to save it and how to protect our taxpayers.

We have already begun preliminary work on the City's 2004 budget. You are probably doing the same. It is our understanding that the County's capital budget has had \$285,000 budgeted since 2001 for 911 upgrades.

Should our discussions succeed, expending that \$285,000 for emergency telephone service upgrades may not be necessary. Additional savings will be realized if the County does not invest in the equipment necessary to provide wireless service.

City of Milwaukee taxpayers have already paid a substantial amount for police communications upgrades. The new CAD system, related telephone system upgrades and computer hardware cost approximately \$20 million dollars. Our annual operating costs are nearly \$12 million.

City taxpayers, and potentially, suburban taxpayers, should not be faced with the "double whammy" of having to pay for the same basic service twice.

We should provide the most important public safety services efficiently and at the most reasonable costs possible. A City of Milwaukee – County consolidation of emergency telephone call service would accomplish just that.

As we know too well, the devil is in the details. We suggest that the City and County convene a meeting of our respective technical staff to identify the issues that must be addressed to move this process along.

We will coordinate the logistics of holding such a meeting. We appreciate your willingness to pursue this matter as well as your efforts to protect the services and taxpayers of Milwaukee.

Sincerely,