

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

Bill provisions

The bill authorizes a board of county commissioners of any county for which a 9-1-1 final plan has not been approved, or has not been implemented because of a lack of funding, to impose a monthly charge on each access line within the area served by the 9-1-1-system. The charge cannot exceed \$0.50 and must be deposited into a special fund of the county treasury, to be used solely for the necessary operating and equipment costs of establishing and maintaining a public safety answering point (PSAP) (sec. 4931.53). A telephone company may retain 3% of any charge it collects as compensation for administrative costs associated with collecting the access charge (Section 4931.54). Under the criteria in the bill, Columbiana, Carroll, Harrison, Hocking, Noble, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Washington, and Vinton counties could benefit from the bill's provisions if voters in the county approved a PSAP levy.

The bill authorizes the board of county commissioners to impose a lesser charge than the amount originally approved by the electors. It prohibits a board from changing the amount of the charge more than once per year. It also prohibits a board from imposing a charge greater than the amount approved by the electors without first holding an election on the question of the greater charge.

Fiscal impact

Table 1 presents estimates for the revenues that these counties and private phone companies could collect if voters approved the maximum access charge permitted by the bill. An official from the Public Utilities Commission estimates that it would cost each county about \$500,000 to establish and equip a PSAP. Therefore the total start-up cost for all 10 counties could be about \$5 million. None of the ten will collect enough revenue in the first year to totally cover the estimated start-up costs.

Table 1: Estimated Annual Revenue with a \$.50 Charge on Access Lines

County	Estimated Total Access Lines*	Gross Monthly Revenue	Monthly Net Revenue	Monthly 3% of access charge	Annual Net Revenue	Annual Phone Company Revenue
Carroll	14,019	\$7,010	\$6,799	\$210	\$81,591	\$2,523
Columbiana	61,832	\$30,916	\$29,989	\$927	\$359,862	\$11,130
Harrison	7,190	\$3,595	\$3,487	\$108	\$41,846	\$1,294
Hocking	14,144	\$7,072	\$6,860	\$212	\$82,318	\$2,546
Meigs	9,208	\$4,604	\$4,466	\$138	\$53,591	\$1,657
Monroe	7,037	\$3,519	\$3,413	\$106	\$40,955	\$1,267
Morgan	9,899	\$4,950	\$4,801	\$148	\$57,612	\$1,782
Noble	6,130	\$3,065	\$2,973	\$92	\$35,677	\$1,103
Vinton	5,646	\$2,823	\$2,738	\$85	\$32,860	\$1,016
Washington	35,284	\$17,642	\$17,113	\$529	\$205,353	\$6,351
Total					\$991,664	\$30,670

*Access line estimates were provided by the Public Utilities Commission.

Other costs and provisions. The board of county commissioners must pass a resolution to put the question of a phone access charge on the ballot. The bill requires the board to hold at least two public hearings on the proposed resolution. The board must publicize the hearings once a week for two consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the county. Hearing and advertising costs could be about \$150 or more.

After the board passes a resolution, the question of a phone charge must be submitted to the electors of the county at a special election on the day of the next primary or general election. Additional costs for the putting the question on the ballot would be minimal.

□ *LBO staff: Alexander C. Heckman, Budget/Policy Analyst*

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