

## **APCO and NENA will be presenting 9-1-1 Bill to address desperately needed adjustments to 9-1-1 excise taxes that have remained unchanged since 1992.**

### **The Bill will address 9-1-1 system needs at the State government level as follows:**

- It calls for an increase from \$.20 to .25 effective July 2009 to address statewide costs for the modernization of 9-1-1 that will include transitioning to and providing for the ongoing operation of Next Generation 9-1-1, replacing our existing 1960's technology that no longer meets public expectations.

### **The Bill will address 9-1-1 system needs at the Local government level as follows:**

- It proposes phased/staged local fee increases over 3 biennium's. The first increase to \$.90 in July of 2009, \$1.20 in January of 2012, and \$1.50 in January of 2014, putting in place a long term solution.
- It reduces 9-1-1 operational costs borne by local government not covered by our existing 9-1-1 excise taxes (\$129 Million per year or 64% of total 9-1-1 costs)
- It restores some of the decreased value of 9-1-1 taxes that have been lost to inflation since 1992 (38%)
- It provides the funding necessary to transition to, and provide for the ongoing operation of Next Generation 9-1-1, replacing our existing 1960's technology that no longer meets public expectations.

### **In an effort to address Telecommunications and Communications Carrier Needs the Bill will provide the following:**

- Immunity for all carriers providing voice or data to 9-1-1
- A level playing field for all carriers/providers (technology neutral language).
- Puts in place a single point of remittance of both state and local 9-1-1 fees , eliminating the need to prepare 40 separate checks to the Counties and State by processing through DOR (streamlining of remittance/accounting)
- Provides for wire transfer ability to DOR (streamlining of remittance and distribution).
- Provides a stable State 9-1-1 fee and predictable local 9-1-1 fee increases that are phased/staged over 3 biennium's to allow for planning by Carriers and eliminating a need to return to the legislature annually.
- By funding Next Generation 9-1-1 which is an Internet Protocol Network and data base, 9-1-1 can answer and process newly marketed vendor technology releases (like text messaging, pictures, video, telemetry from vehicles, like location and vehicle crash predictable injuries to passengers) that our current 9-1-1 system can't receive or process.

### **The Bill will provide Accountability as follows:**

- Changes from a 9-1-1 excise tax to a 9-1-1 service fee, that more correctly recognizes a fee for the service offered by our statewide 9-1-1 system.

- Any County monthly or annual reports to the State 9-1-1 Program Office are made available to carriers on request.
- Requires a JALARC Audit at 5 years (2014) in time to provide recommendations to the 2015 Legislative Committees on future fees and accountability.
- It requires the State 9-1-1 Program Office report to WUTC annually on State 9-1-1 fees .