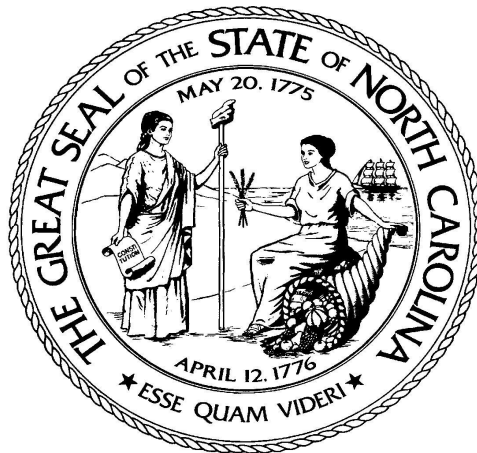


NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY



HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE USE OF 911 FUNDS.

REPORT TO THE 2010 SESSION of the 2009 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

APRIL 26, 2010

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¹All of the meeting handouts, including Power Point presentations, may be accessed online at the House Select Committee on the Use of 911 Funds website:
<http://www.ncleg.net/committees/>

TRANSMITTAL LETTER

The House Select Committee on the Use of 911 Funds respectfully submits to you for your consideration

**Representative Angela Bryant
Chair**

COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS

The House Select Committee on the Use of 911 Funds, met five times from January 16, 2010 until April 26, 2010.

January 16, 2010

After introductions of the Committee members and staff were made, staff to the Committee reviewed the charge of the Committee. Heather Fennell and Steve Rose of the Research Division reviewed the history of 911 service and legislation in North Carolina. Gayle Moses of the Bill Drafting Division presented information on past legislation to expand the uses of the 911 Fund. Richard Taylor, Executive Director of the 911 Board gave a presentation on the power and duties of the 911 Board. Mr. Taylor also presented information on the distribution and uses of the revenues in the 911 Fund.

February 23, 2010

Richard Taylor, Executive Director of the 911 Board provided information to the Committee regarding the fund balances of PSAPs. Jim Blackburn, General Counsel of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners introduced several local government representatives who presented on the administration of 911 service. Lee Worsley, Catawba County Assistant County Manager, provided an actual 911 call and described the emergency response provided from the taking of the call to the dispatch of the emergency responders. Christy Shearin, Director of Franklin County Emergency Communications presented information on the equipment in a 911Center. She also presented information on the funding for each piece of equipment. Randy Keaton, Pasquotank County Manager reviewed the findings of the 911 Study Committee organized by the 911 Board. Dwight Allen, representing telecommunication providers, presented the perspective of the telecommunications industry on the expansion of the use of the 911 Fund. Tonya Pierce, representative of the National Emergency Number Association presented information on the need for standards to be determined for PSAP operations. Richard Taylor presented legislative changes proposed by the 911 Board.

March 16, 2010

Paul Meyer, Chief Legislative Counsel for the North Carolina League of Municipalities presented his organization's position on the proposals discussed by the Committee. Kevin Leonard, Director of Governmental Relations for the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners presented his organization's proposal for changes to the statutes governing 911 service. Heather Fennell of the Research Division reviewed the two draft proposals submitted by the 911 Board and the NC Association of County Commissioners. The Committee discussed the proposed changes.

April 19, 2010

Chair Bryant reviewed proposed legislation that resulted from the previous meeting's discussion by the Committee. Kevin Leonard, Director of Governmental Relations for the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners presented information on the make-up of the 911Board. Richard Taylor, Executive Director of the 911 Board presented information on the study conducted by ECU titled "Findings and Recommendations on 911 Costs and Funding Model for the NC 911 System." Tonya Pearce of NC NENA provided information to the Committee on her organization's position on proposed legislation. Dwight Allen, representing telecommunication providers, presented the perspective of the telecommunications industry on the proposed legislation. Chair Bryant reviewed the outstanding issues with the Committee.

April 26, 2010

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

FINDING 1: The representation of the 911 board is not evenly distributed between the local government representatives and private telecommunications representatives.

RECOMMENDATION 1: The members of the 911 Board should be revised to add one additional member of the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO), and remove one private telecommunications representative. The NC Association of County Commissioners should be allowed to recommend one of the APCO representatives; NC League of Municipalities should be allowed to recommend one of the North Carolina chapter of the National Emergency Number Association (NENA) representatives.

FINDING 2: Uniform operating standards for the public safety answering points (PSAPs) that receive distributions from the 911 Fund are necessary to provide adequate 911 service across the State.

RECOMMENDATION 2: The 911 Board must adopt operating standards for the public safety answering points (PSAPs) that receive distributions from the 911 Fund.

FINDING 3: A private network for providing 911 service would benefit the PSAPs throughout the State.

RECOMMENDATION 3: The 911 Board should be authorized to pay private vendors for provisioning a network for the purpose of providing 911 service.

FINDING 4: Certain projects conducted by individual PSAPs would better be addressed by a conducting the project on a statewide level.

RECOMMENDATION 4: The 911 Board should be authorized to administer statewide 911 Projects.

FINDING 5: The administrative expenses of the Board may increase with the new duties of the 911 Board.

RECOMMENDATION 5: The percentage of funds the 911 Board may retain from the funds remitted to it may be increased from 1% to 2% if warranted.

FINDING 6: The use of the 911 Fund is too restrictive and should be expanded to allow for additional uses by PSAPs.

RECOMMENDATION 6: The 911 Fund should be expanded to allow distributions from the Fund to be used for radio communications equipment including radios for first responders.

FINDING 7: The distribution of funds from the 911 Fund is inequitable and should be amended.

RECOMMENDATION 7: The 911 Board should determine a method for establishing distributions from the Fund that allows for adequate distributions to pay for eligible expenses and anticipated increases in expenses.

FINDING 8: Allowing PSAPs to voluntarily consolidate into primary PSAPs would be beneficial for the provision of 911 service.

RECOMMENDATION 8: The 911 Board should be authorized to provide grants for the voluntary consolidation of PSAPs into a primary PSAP.

PROPOSED LEGISLATION

DRAFT

APPENDIX A



**Office of Speaker Joe Hackney
North Carolina House of Representatives
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601-1096**

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE USE OF 911 FUNDS

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE NORTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Section 1. The House Select Committee on the Use of 911 Funds (hereinafter "Committee") is established by the Speaker of the House of Representatives pursuant to G.S. 120-19.6(a1) and Rule 26(a) of the Rules of the House of Representatives of the 2009 General Assembly.

Section 2. The Committee consists of the 6 members listed below, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Members serve at the pleasure of the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Vacancies of the Committee are filled by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Speaker may dissolve the Committee at any time.

Representative Allen	Co-Chair
Representative Bryant	Co-Chair
Representative Coates	
Representative Faison	
Representative Sager	
Representative West	

Section 3. The Committee may examine the use of the 911 Funds by Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs). In conducting its study, the Committee may:

- (1) Consider expanding the uses of the 911 Funds by PSAPs to provide a funding mechanism to account for the broad spectrum of needs of the PSAPs.

- (2) Consider expanding the uses of the 911 Funds by PSAPs to provide flexibility to local governments.
- (3) Consider any report submitted by the North Carolina 911 Board on the use of the 911 Fund.
- (4) Examine funding needs of PSAPs, including all of the following:
 - a. The lease or purchase of an additional communications tower, a multisite simulcast system, microwave connectivity between the sites, a site monitoring and alarm system, and grounding and lightning protection.
 - b. Equipment for radio and telephone system upgrades, equipment for reverse 911, and street sign maintenance.
 - c. The lease, purchase, operation, and maintenance of consoles and communications equipment owned or operated by the PSAP and physically located within and for the use of the PSAP and radio or microwave towers and equipment with lines that terminate in the PSAP.
- (5) Consider other relevant issues it deems appropriate.

Section 4. The Committee shall meet upon the call of its Co-Chairs. A quorum of the Committee shall be a majority of its members.

Section 5. The Committee, while in the discharge of its official duties, may exercise all powers provided for under G.S. 120-19 and Article 5A of Chapter 120 of the General Statutes.

Section 6. Members of the Committee shall receive per diem, subsistence, and travel allowance as provided in G.S. 120-3.1.

Section 7. The expenses of the Committee including per diem, subsistence, travel allowances for Committee members, and contracts for professional or consultant services shall be paid upon the written approval of the Speaker of the House of Representatives pursuant to G.S. 120-32.02(c) and G.S. 120-35 from funds available to the House of Representatives for its operations. Individual expenses of \$5,000 or less, including per diem, travel, and subsistence expenses of members of the Committee, and clerical expenses shall be paid upon the authorization of the Co-Chairs of the Committee. Individual expenses in excess of \$5,000 shall be paid upon the written approval of the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Section 8. The Legislative Services Officer shall assign professional and clerical staff to assist the Committee in its work. The Director of Legislative

Assistants of the House of Representatives shall assign clerical support staff to the Committee.

Section 9. The Committee may meet at various locations around the State in order to promote greater public participation in its deliberations.

Section 10. The Committee may submit an interim report on the results of the study, including any proposed legislation, on or before May 1, 2010, by filing a copy of the report with the Office of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the House Principal Clerk, and the Legislative Library. The Committee shall submit a final report on the results of its study, including any proposed legislation, to the members of the House of Representatives on or before February 1, 2011, by filing the final report with the Office of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the House Principal Clerk, and the Legislative Library. The Committee terminates on February 1, 2011, or upon the filing of its final report, whichever occurs first.

Effective this the 17th day of November, 2009.



Joe Hackney
Speaker

APPENDIX B

AGENDA

House Select Committee on the Use of 911 Funds

January 26, 2010
2:00 p.m.

Opening Remarks by Chairs

Introduction of Members
Charge of Committee

History of 911 Legislation

Steve Rose, Research Division

Heather D. Fennell, Research Division

Gayle Moses, Bill Drafting Division

- Legislative history of Chapter 62A
- Local legislation for expansion of use of 911 funds.

Overview of 911 Board and 911 Funding

Richard Taylor, Executive Director North Carolina 911 Board

- History of 911 Board
- 911 Funding procedures
- Fund balances for PSAPs

Committee Discussion

AGENDA

House Select Committee on the Use of 911 Funds

February 23, 2010

10:00 a.m.

Opening Remarks by Chairs

Fund Balances of PSAPs

Richard Taylor, Executive Director 911 Board

Local Government – Administration of 911

Randy Keaton, Pasquotank County Manager

Lee Worsley, Catawba County Assistant County Manager

Christy Shearin, Director, Franklin County Emergency Communications

New Technology of 911

Barry Furey, Director, Raleigh/Wake PSAP

Expansion of 911 Funds – Interested Parties

Cities – Paul Meyer

Counties – Kevin Leonard

Telecommunication Providers – Dwight Allen

NENA/APCO – Tonya Pearce

911 Board – Richard Taylor

Next Meeting: March 16, 2010

AGENDA

House Select Committee on the Use of 911 Funds

March 16, 2010

3:00 p.m.

Opening Remarks by Chairs

Expansion of 911 Funds – Interested Parties

Cities – Paul Meyer

Counties – Kevin Leonard

Funding Expansion Drafts

Heather Fennell, Research Division

Committee Discussion

Next Meeting: April 20, 2010

AGENDA

House Select Committee on the Use of 911 Funds

April 19, 2010
2:30 p.m.

Opening Remarks by Chair

New Technology of 911

Barry Furey, Director, Raleigh/Wake PSAP

Expansion of 911 Funds

- Stakeholder draft
- Funding distribution models

911 Board – Richard Taylor
Counties – Kevin Leonard

Comments from Interested Parties

Municipalities
NENA – Tonya Pearce
Telecommunications Providers

Committee Discussion

Next Meeting: 1:30 pm, April 26, 2010

AGENDA

House Select Committee on the Use of 911 Funds

**April 26, 2010
1:30 p.m.**

Opening Remarks by Chair

Review and Adoption of Findings and Recommendations

Review of Draft Legislation

Comments from Interested Parties

Adoption of Final Report and Proposed Legislation

Closing Remarks by Chair
