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Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee

64th Montana Legislature

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NADINE SPENCER, Secretary

June 29, 2016

TO: Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee (ETIC)

FR: ETIC staff

RE: NG911 Draft Report Public Comment

At the May meeting, ETIC members directed staff to put the draft report concerning moving Next Generation 9-1-1 forward in Montana as well as related legislation out for public comment. Attached are the public comments received on the draft report and on LCET04. The report was out for public comment from May 17 to June 17.

A request for comment was posted on the ETIC Listserv and notice was also sent out in a news release. The ETIC received about a dozen public comments, mostly directed at LCET04. Most of the comment received was from large Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) and associated cities and counties concerning the potential shift in funding under the new allocation in the draft. All public comment received also is posted on the ETIC Website at www.leg.mt.gov/etic.

The 9-1-1 Advisory Council met June 16 and June 28 to review the draft and to discuss and develop potential amendments for ETIC consideration. The council agreed the formula initially proposed for 9-1-1 funding was not appropriate. The proposal was intended to simplify the equation. It was not intended to shift funds from larger PSAPs to smaller PSAPs. The council requests the ETIC consider a new proposal that would not result in a cost shift. It locks in the current funding formula through 2022 and tasks the newly formed Advisory Council and Department of Administration with developing rules that rely on population figures but assure baseline funding for entities. The amendments are highlighted in new, proposed draft legislation -- LCN911. The current council determined there likely is not a simple allocation or percentage to put into law that doesn't ultimately create winners and losers. A more complex formula using population data and equations may be difficult to build into statute and regularly update. The council agreed it may be more appropriately addressed in rulemaking. The council also worked on amendments that update the grant program and allow providers to directly apply for grants.

If the ETIC agrees to adopt any of the proposed recommendations, LCET04 can be revised to show the changes in LCN911 and then posted for a second public comment period during the month of July. The ETIC at its September meeting could then determine whether to bring the draft before the 2017 Legislature.

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