

SENATE COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE REPORT

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Chair of Committee

February 25, 2025  
Date

Committee on Business, Labor, & Technology.

After consideration on the merits, the Committee recommends the following:

SB25-031 be amended as follows, and as so amended, be referred to the Committee on Appropriations with favorable recommendation:

1 Amend printed bill, strike everything below the enacting clause and  
2 substitute:

3 "SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-37.5-903, amend  
4 (2)(b) as follows:

5 **24-37.5-903. Colorado broadband office - creation -**  
6 **responsibilities - gifts, grants, or donations.** (2) (b) The broadband  
7 office shall provide technical assistance to applicants seeking grant  
8 awards from the grant program or other state or federal grant  
9 opportunities offered for deploying broadband AND WIRELESS service.

10 SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, add 24-33.5-432 as  
11 follows:

12 **24-33.5-432. Emergency alerts - definitions.** (1) (a) BEGINNING  
13 JULY 1, 2027, AN ALERTING AUTHORITY SHALL DISSEMINATE EMERGENCY  
14 ALERTS IN ENGLISH AND IN A PREDOMINANT MINORITY LANGUAGE IF THE  
15 ALERTING AUTHORITY COVERS A COUNTY OR CITY IN WHICH AT LEAST TWO  
16 THOUSAND OR TWO AND ONE-HALF PERCENT OF RESIDENTS WHO ARE  
17 EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER SPEAK THE PREDOMINANT MINORITY  
18 LANGUAGE AND SPEAK ENGLISH LESS THAN VERY WELL, AS REPORTED BY  
19 THE UNITED STATES CENSUS BUREAU'S AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY  
20 OR COMPARABLE AVAILABLE AND VALIDATED CENSUS DATA.

21 (b) AN EMERGENCY ALERT MUST BE SENT IN THE TIMELIEST  
22 MANNER POSSIBLE WHEN USING BROADCAST EMERGENCY ALERTS AND  
23 EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEMS. AN ALERTING AUTHORITY MAY  
24 DISSEMINATE EMERGENCY ALERTS BY USING PRELOADED RESIDENT DATA  
25 AND VOLUNTARY REGISTRATIONS. AN ALERTING AUTHORITY SHALL  
26 COMPLY WITH 42 U.S.C. SEC. 12101 ET SEQ., WHEN DISSEMINATING  
27 EMERGENCY ALERTS.

28 (c) EMERGENCY ALERTS MUST BE IN PLAIN LANGUAGE.

1 (d) EMERGENCY ALERTS SENT IN ENGLISH VIA THE BROADCAST  
2 EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM MUST ALSO BE SENT IN PREDOMINATE  
3 MINORITY LANGUAGES THAT THE SYSTEM SUPPORTS.

4 (2) IN ADDITION TO COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS IN  
5 SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION, THE STATE, COUNTIES, MUNICIPALITIES,  
6 AND ALERTING AUTHORITIES ARE ENCOURAGED TO USE AVAILABLE  
7 TECHNOLOGY TO ISSUE EMERGENCY ALERTS IN AS MANY LANGUAGES AS  
8 POSSIBLE IN THE SAME METHOD AS AN ENGLISH ALERT.

9 (3) (a) THE STATE MAY PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO COUNTIES,  
10 MUNICIPALITIES, AND ALERTING AUTHORITIES IN IMPLEMENTING THIS  
11 SECTION.

12 (b) EACH ALERTING AUTHORITY THAT IS REQUIRED TO SEND  
13 EMERGENCY ALERTS IN A PREDOMINANT MINORITY LANGUAGE PURSUANT  
14 TO SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION IS ENCOURAGED TO CONDUCT  
15 COMMUNITY OUTREACH TO INFORM PEOPLE WITH LIMITED ENGLISH  
16 PROFICIENCY OF THE AVAILABILITY OF LANGUAGE INTERPRETATION AND  
17 TRANSLATION OPTIONS FOR EMERGENCY ALERTS. EXISTING EMERGENCY  
18 NOTIFICATION SYSTEMS INSTALLED OR SUBSCRIBED TO BY AN ALERTING  
19 AUTHORITY MUST ADHERE TO THIS SECTION AS THE ALERTING  
20 APPLICATION ALLOWS AND IN THE TIMELIEST MANNER. WHEN AN  
21 ALERTING AUTHORITY PURCHASES A NEW EMERGENCY ALERTING SYSTEM,  
22 THE EMERGENCY ALERTING SYSTEM MUST INCLUDE TRANSLATION  
23 FUNCTIONALITY.

24 (4) THE 911 SERVICES ENTERPRISE CREATED IN SECTION 29-11-108  
25 MAY DISTRIBUTE GRANTS TO MUNICIPAL OR COUNTY ALERTING  
26 AUTHORITIES TO IMPLEMENT LANGUAGE AND ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES  
27 FOR EMERGENCY ALERTS. THE ENTERPRISE BOARD OF DIRECTORS SHALL  
28 DETERMINE THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF THE GRANTS AND THE MANNER OF  
29 DISTRIBUTION OF THE GRANTS. THE 911 SERVICES ENTERPRISE SHALL USE  
30 ENTERPRISE FUNDS TO SUPPORT DISTRIBUTION OF THE GRANTS.

31 (5) FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT  
32 OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

33 (a) "ALERTING AUTHORITY" MEANS A JURISDICTION WITH THE  
34 DESIGNATED AUTHORITY TO ALERT AND WARN THE PUBLIC WHEN THERE  
35 IS AN IMPENDING NATURAL OR HUMAN-MADE DISASTER, THREAT, OR  
36 DANGEROUS OR MISSING PERSON.

37 (b) "BROADCAST EMERGENCY ALERT" INCLUDING WIRELESS  
38 EMERGENCY ALERTS MEANS SHORT EMERGENCY MESSAGES FROM  
39 AUTHORIZED FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL, AND TERRITORIAL PUBLIC ALERTING  
40 AUTHORITIES THAT MAY BE BROADCAST IN MULTIPLE DELIVERY FORMATS,  
41 INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, CELLULAR PROVIDERS, TO ANY  
42 PRE-ENABLED DEVICE IN A LOCALLY TARGETED AREA. WIRELESS  
43 PROVIDERS PRIMARILY USE CELL BROADCAST TECHNOLOGY FOR MESSAGE

1 DELIVERY. THE SYSTEM UTILIZED FOR BROADCASTING EMERGENCY  
2 ALERTS IS A PARTNERSHIP AMONG THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY  
3 MANAGEMENT AGENCY, THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
4 AND WIRELESS PROVIDERS TO ENHANCE PUBLIC SAFETY.

5 (c) "EMERGENCY ALERT" MEANS CRITICAL LIFE SAFETY  
6 INFORMATION DISSEMINATED BY AN ALERTING AUTHORITY THAT ADVISES  
7 THE PUBLIC TO PREPARE TO TAKE ACTION OR TAKE ACTION IMMEDIATELY  
8 DUE TO AN IMMINENT LIFE THREAT.

9 (d) "EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM" MEANS A  
10 COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM OR NETWORK OF SYSTEMS, AS DEFINED BY THE  
11 ALERTING AUTHORITY, DESIGNED TO QUICKLY ALERT THE PUBLIC TO  
12 CRITICAL LIFE SAFETY INFORMATION THROUGH MULTIPLE  
13 COMMUNICATIONS CHANNELS INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, TEXT  
14 MESSAGES, PHONE CALLS, EMAILS, OR DESKTOP ALERTS.

15 (e) "PREDOMINANT MINORITY LANGUAGE" MEANS A LANGUAGE  
16 SPOKEN BY AT LEAST TWO THOUSAND OR TWO AND ONE-HALF PERCENT OF  
17 RESIDENTS WHO ARE EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER WHO ALSO SPEAK  
18 ENGLISH LESS THAN VERY WELL IN A CITY OR COUNTY WITHIN AN  
19 ALERTING AUTHORITY'S JURISDICTION, AS REPORTED BY THE AMERICAN  
20 COMMUNITY SURVEY DATA OR COMPARABLE AVAILABLE AND VALIDATED  
21 CENSUS DATA.

22 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 29-11-108, **add**  
23 (5)(b)(V.5) as follows:

24 **29-11-108. 911 services enterprise - creation - powers and**  
25 **duties - cash fund - legislative declaration.** (5) The enterprise's primary  
26 powers and duties are to:

27 (b) Distribute funding to governing bodies, PSAPs, statewide 911  
28 organizations, or third parties for the benefit of governing bodies or  
29 PSAPs for purposes that are pre-approved by the board of directors of the  
30 enterprise and are consistent with applicable statutes, regulations,  
31 ordinances, policies, and procedures. The purposes may include:

32 (V.5) AWARDING GRANTS TO LOCAL ALERTING AUTHORITIES, AS  
33 DEFINED IN SECTION 24-33.5-432 (5), TO IMPLEMENT LANGUAGE AND  
34 ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES FOR EMERGENCY ALERTS;

35 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 29-11-101, **amend**  
36 (21) as follows:

37 **29-11-101. Definitions.** As used in this part 1, unless the context  
38 otherwise requires:

39 (21) "Prepaid wireless telecommunications service" means A  
40 wireless telecommunications ~~access that allows the user to make 911~~  
41 ~~calls, is paid for in advance, and is sold in predetermined units or dollars,~~  
42 ~~of which the number of units or dollars available to the caller declines~~  
43 ~~with use in a known amount.~~ SERVICE THAT:

- 1 (a) IS PAID FOR IN ADVANCE;  
2 (b) IS SOLD IN PREDETERMINED UNITS OF TIME OR DOLLARS THAT  
3 DECLINE WITH USE IN A KNOWN AMOUNT OR PROVIDES UNLIMITED USE OF  
4 THE SERVICE FOR A FIXED PERIOD OF TIME; AND  
5 (c) ALLOWS A SERVICE USER TO ACCESS 911 EMERGENCY SERVICE.

6 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 29-11-102.5, **add**  
7 (1.5) as follows:

8 **29-11-102.5. Imposition of charge on prepaid wireless -**  
9 **prepaid wireless trust cash fund - rules - applicability - definitions -**  
10 **repeal.** (1.5) THIS SECTION APPLIES TO PREPAID WIRELESS  
11 TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE. ALL OTHER TELECOMMUNICATION  
12 SERVICES ARE SUBJECT TO SECTIONS 29-11-102 AND 29-11-102.3.

13 **SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 40-17.5-101, **add**  
14 (9.5) as follows:

15 **40-17.5-101. Definitions.** As used in this article 17.5, unless the  
16 context otherwise requires:

17 (9.5) "PREPAID WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE", FOR  
18 THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, HAS THE SAME MEANING AS IN SECTION  
19 29-11-101.

20 **SECTION 7. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
21 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
22 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except  
23 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V  
24 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this  
25 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take  
26 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in  
27 November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the  
28 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor."

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