

**First Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

PREAMENDED

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 25-0247.01 Michael Dohr x4347

SENATE BILL 25-031

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Roberts,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Soper and Velasco, Bacon

Senate Committees

Business, Labor, & Technology
Appropriations

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING GOVERNMENT AGENCY ASSISTANCE IN SERVICES**
102 **RELATED TO WIRELESS COMMUNICATION.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov/>.)

Cell Phone Connectivity Interim Study Committee. The bill requires the division of homeland security and emergency management in the department of public safety (division) to develop a single point of contact within the division to:

- Help ensure statewide coverage of the integrated public alert and warning system for wireless emergency alerts and

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.*

- the emergency alert system;
- Provide technical assistance to local jurisdictions on becoming integrated public alert and warning system certified;
- Provide technical assistance, consistent with the language access in emergency communications study, to implement best practices for inclusive alerting; and
- Offer recommendations to improve current wireless alert systems in Colorado that address language and access needs.

Under current law, the Colorado broadband office (office) has certain duties related to broadband in Colorado. The bill requires the office to also perform those duties for wireless services.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

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

4 **24-37.5-903. Colorado broadband office - creation -**
 5 **responsibilities - gifts, grants, or donations. (2) (b) The broadband**
 6 **office shall provide technical assistance to applicants seeking grant**
 7 **awards from the grant program or other state or federal grant**
 8 **opportunities offered for deploying broadband AND WIRELESS service.**

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

11 **24-33.5-432. Emergency alerts - definitions. (1) (a) BEGINNING**
 12 **JULY 1, 2027, AN ALERTING AUTHORITY SHALL DISSEMINATE EMERGENCY**
 13 **ALERTS IN ENGLISH AND IN A PREDOMINANT MINORITY LANGUAGE IF THE**
 14 **ALERTING AUTHORITY COVERS A COUNTY OR CITY IN WHICH AT LEAST TWO**
 15 **THOUSAND OR TWO AND ONE-HALF PERCENT OF RESIDENTS WHO ARE**
 16 **EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER SPEAK THE PREDOMINANT MINORITY**
 17 **LANGUAGE AND SPEAK ENGLISH LESS THAN VERY WELL, AS REPORTED BY**
 18 **THE UNITED STATES CENSUS BUREAU'S AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY**

1 OR COMPARABLE AVAILABLE AND VALIDATED CENSUS DATA.

2 (b) AN EMERGENCY ALERT MUST BE SENT IN THE TIMELIEST
3 MANNER POSSIBLE WHEN USING BROADCAST EMERGENCY ALERTS AND
4 EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEMS. AN ALERTING AUTHORITY MAY
5 DISSEMINATE EMERGENCY ALERTS BY USING PRELOADED RESIDENT DATA
6 AND VOLUNTARY REGISTRATIONS. AN ALERTING AUTHORITY SHALL
7 COMPLY WITH 42 U.S.C. SEC. 12101 ET SEQ., WHEN DISSEMINATING
8 EMERGENCY ALERTS.

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

10 (d) EMERGENCY ALERTS SENT IN ENGLISH VIA THE BROADCAST
11 EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM MUST ALSO BE SENT IN PREDOMINATE
12 MINORITY LANGUAGES THAT THE SYSTEM SUPPORTS.

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

18 (3) (a) THE STATE MAY PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO COUNTIES,
19 MUNICIPALITIES, AND ALERTING AUTHORITIES IN IMPLEMENTING THIS
20 SECTION.

21 (b) EACH ALERTING AUTHORITY THAT IS REQUIRED TO SEND
22 EMERGENCY ALERTS IN A PREDOMINANT MINORITY LANGUAGE PURSUANT
23 TO SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION IS ENCOURAGED TO CONDUCT
24 COMMUNITY OUTREACH TO INFORM PEOPLE WITH LIMITED ENGLISH
25 PROFICIENCY OF THE AVAILABILITY OF LANGUAGE INTERPRETATION AND
26 TRANSLATION OPTIONS FOR EMERGENCY ALERTS. EXISTING EMERGENCY
27 NOTIFICATION SYSTEMS INSTALLED OR SUBSCRIBED TO BY AN ALERTING

1 AUTHORITY MUST ADHERE TO THIS SECTION AS THE ALERTING
2 APPLICATION ALLOWS AND IN THE TIMELIEST MANNER. WHEN AN
3 ALERTING AUTHORITY PURCHASES A NEW EMERGENCY ALERTING SYSTEM,
4 THE EMERGENCY ALERTING SYSTEM MUST INCLUDE TRANSLATION
5 FUNCTIONALITY.

6 (4) THE 911 SERVICES ENTERPRISE CREATED IN SECTION 29-11-108
7 MAY DISTRIBUTE GRANTS TO MUNICIPAL OR COUNTY ALERTING
8 AUTHORITIES TO IMPLEMENT LANGUAGE AND ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES
9 FOR EMERGENCY ALERTS. THE ENTERPRISE BOARD OF DIRECTORS SHALL
10 DETERMINE THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF THE GRANTS AND THE MANNER OF
11 DISTRIBUTION OF THE GRANTS. THE 911 SERVICES ENTERPRISE SHALL USE
12 ENTERPRISE FUNDS TO SUPPORT DISTRIBUTION OF THE GRANTS.

13 (5) FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT
14 OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

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

19 (b) "BROADCAST EMERGENCY ALERT" INCLUDING WIRELESS
20 EMERGENCY ALERTS MEANS SHORT EMERGENCY MESSAGES FROM
21 AUTHORIZED FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL, AND TERRITORIAL PUBLIC ALERTING
22 AUTHORITIES THAT MAY BE BROADCAST IN MULTIPLE DELIVERY FORMATS,
23 INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, CELLULAR PROVIDERS, TO ANY
24 PRE-ENABLED DEVICE IN A LOCALLY TARGETED AREA. WIRELESS
25 PROVIDERS PRIMARILY USE CELL BROADCAST TECHNOLOGY FOR MESSAGE
26 DELIVERY. THE SYSTEM UTILIZED FOR BROADCASTING EMERGENCY
27 ALERTS IS A PARTNERSHIP AMONG THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY

1 MANAGEMENT AGENCY, THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
2 AND WIRELESS PROVIDERS TO ENHANCE PUBLIC SAFETY.

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

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

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

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

22 **29-11-108. 911 services enterprise - creation - powers and**
23 **duties - cash fund - legislative declaration.** (5) The enterprise's primary
24 powers and duties are to:

25 (b) Distribute funding to governing bodies, PSAPs, statewide 911
26 organizations, or third parties for the benefit of governing bodies or
27 PSAPs for purposes that are pre-approved by the board of directors of the

1 enterprise and are consistent with applicable statutes, regulations,
2 ordinances, policies, and procedures. The purposes may include:

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

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

8 **29-11-101. Definitions.** As used in this part 1, unless the context
9 otherwise requires:

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

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

20 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 29-11-102.5, **add**
21 (1.5) as follows:

22 **29-11-102.5. Imposition of charge on prepaid wireless -**
23 **prepaid wireless trust cash fund - rules - applicability - definitions -**
24 **repeal.** (1.5) THIS SECTION APPLIES TO PREPAID WIRELESS
25 TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE. ALL OTHER TELECOMMUNICATION
26 SERVICES ARE SUBJECT TO SECTIONS 29-11-102 AND 29-11-102.3.

27 **SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 40-17.5-101, **add**

1 (9.5) as follows:

2 **40-17.5-101. Definitions.** As used in this article 17.5, unless the
3 context otherwise requires:

4 (9.5) "PREPAID WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE", FOR
5 THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, HAS THE SAME MEANING AS IN SECTION
6 29-11-101.

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