

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

ENGROSSED

*This Version Includes All Amendments Adopted
on Second Reading in the House of Introduction*

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.

SENATE
Amended 2nd Reading
March 18, 2025

- 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 24-33.5-719 as**
 10 **follows:**

11 **24-33.5-719. 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. ALERTING
3 AUTHORITIES THAT ARE REQUIRED TO SEND EMERGENCY ALERTS IN A
4 PREDOMINANT MINORITY LANGUAGE PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1) OF
5 THIS SECTION MAY MEET THE REQUIREMENTS BY ANY AVAILABLE METHOD,
6 INCLUDING TECHNOLOGY, EMPLOYEES, OR VENDORS.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

26 (b) Distribute funding to governing bodies, PSAPs, statewide 911
27 organizations, or third parties for the benefit of governing bodies or

1 PSAPs for purposes that are pre-approved by the board of directors of the
2 enterprise and are consistent with applicable statutes, regulations,
3 ordinances, policies, and procedures. The purposes may include:

4 (V.5) AWARDING GRANTS TO LOCAL ALERTING AUTHORITIES, AS
5 DEFINED IN SECTION 24-33.5-719 (5), TO IMPLEMENT LANGUAGE AND
6 ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES FOR EMERGENCY ALERTS;

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

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

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

16 (a) IS PAID FOR IN ADVANCE;

17 (b) IS SOLD IN PREDETERMINED UNITS OF TIME OR DOLLARS THAT
18 DECLINE WITH USE IN A KNOWN AMOUNT OR PROVIDES UNLIMITED USE OF
19 THE SERVICE FOR A FIXED PERIOD OF TIME; AND

20 (c) ALLOWS A SERVICE USER TO ACCESS 911 EMERGENCY SERVICE.

21 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 29-11-102.5, **add**
22 (1.5) as follows:

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

1 **SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 40-17.5-101, add
2 (9.5) as follows:

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

5 (9.5) "PREPAID WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE", FOR
6 THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, HAS THE SAME MEANING AS IN SECTION
7 29-11-101.

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