

A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED BY  
LEGISLATORS DIXON, MILLS, RATH and HARDWICK

Re: Encouraging Elimination of Fees for Public Safety Text Alerts

WHEREAS, cellular phones require bandwidth in order to function; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) allocates bandwidth used by a variety of communications equipment and first allocated bandwidth to cellular phone companies in 1968; and

WHEREAS, the bandwidth allocated to cellular phone companies has steadily increased over the years and continues to increase; and

WHEREAS, cellular telephones are a valuable public safety tool for users; and

WHEREAS, in addition to using cellular telephones to quickly report emergency conditions, users can also receive emergency notifications via their cellular phones; and

WHEREAS, public safety alerts are sent to cellular phone users who sign up for alerts via text message; and

WHEREAS, despite the importance of these alerts to public safety, many cellular phone users must pay for these text alerts; and

WHEREAS, the cost of these alerts is a disincentive to sign up for these valuable alerts; and

WHEREAS, eliminating the cost of these messages would encourage use of these alerts and improve public safety across the community; and

WHEREAS, the federal government, as the allocator of bandwidth to cellular phone companies, is in the best position to encourage measures to improve usage of public safety alerts via text message.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that this body requests that the federal government take steps, including a requirement that emergency text alerts be at no cost to cellular phone users, to encourage the use of cellular phone public safety text alerts; and be it further,

RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be sent to the local delegation of the United States Congress and the Erie County Commissioner of Emergency Services.

Fiscal Impact: None.