



MISSOURI SENATE

John Griesheimer
26th Senate District

JEFFERSON CITY

CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 331
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101

For Immediate Release
March 3, 2009

Contact: Chris Sutherland
(573) 751-3678

Senate Panel Considers Bill by Senator John Griesheimer to Fund Enhanced 9-1-1 Service through Cell Phone Fee

JEFFERSON CITY — A Senate panel considered a bill today (3/3) proposed by Sen. John Griesheimer, R-Washington, that would allow a fee on wireless phone service to fund enhanced 9-1-1 Service in Missouri.

If approved by Missouri voters, [Senate Bill 119](#) would establish a fee of up to 25 cents per month on every wireless telephone number to fund emergency dispatching facilities — commonly referred to as Public Safety Answering Points or PSAPs — that provide or upgrade to Enhanced 9-1-1 Service. Enhanced 9-1-1 Service allows 9-1-1 calls to be tracked to an accurate location. Currently, funding for 9-1-1 Service and Enhanced 9-1-1 Service in Missouri comes primarily from sales tax, general tax revenue and in large part from landline taxes, but not from cell phone usage.

“More and more emergency calls today are from cell phones,” Sen. Griesheimer said. “This bill is about increasing safety in our state and having the wireless industry contribute its share to fund emergency services. Currently, Missouri is the only state that hasn’t implemented a wireless funding mechanism of this kind.”

Under the bill’s proposals, the Department of Public Safety and the Office of Administration would be responsible for creating a formula to distribute funds for PSAPs that provide or upgrade to Enhanced 9-1-1 Service.

“The time has come for Missouri to bring Enhanced 9-1-1 Service to areas that don’t currently have it and to modernize or consolidate our existing systems to prepare for the future,” Sen. Griesheimer said.

[Senate Bill 119](#) is under consideration by the Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, Energy and the Environment Committee.

###