

By: Hughes

H.B. No. 2437

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the amount of emergency service fees for certain telecommunications providers.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 771.071(b), Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) The amount of the fee may not exceed 50 cents a month for each line. The commission shall suspend the fees established under this section for the duration of any state fiscal biennium for which the unencumbered balance of the 9-1-1 services fee account and the anticipated revenue to be deposited to the account from fees on wireless telecommunications connections imposed under Section 771.0711 are sufficient to pay for all of the appropriations from that account. The commission may reinstate its imposition of the fees under this section if the commission anticipates that in the next succeeding state fiscal biennium the unencumbered balance of the 9-1-1 services fee account will not otherwise be sufficient to pay for all of the appropriations from that account.

SECTION 2. Sections 771.0711(a) and (b), Health and Safety Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) To provide for automatic number identification and automatic location identification of wireless 9-1-1 calls, the commission shall impose on each wireless telecommunications connection a 9-1-1 emergency service fee in an amount determined by

1 the commission to be sufficient, when considered together with the
2 anticipated revenue from the 9-1-1 emergency service fees imposed
3 under Section 771.071, to fund all entities in this state that
4 provide emergency communications services but not more than 50
5 cents a month for each connection. A political subdivision may not
6 impose another fee on a wireless service provider or subscriber for
7 9-1-1 emergency service.

8 (b) A wireless service provider shall collect the fee [~~in an~~
9 ~~amount equal to 50 cents a month~~] for each wireless
10 telecommunications connection from its subscribers and shall pay
11 the money collected to the comptroller not later than the 30th day
12 after the last day of the month during which the fees were
13 collected. The comptroller may establish alternative dates for
14 payment of fees under this section. The wireless service provider
15 may retain an administrative fee of one percent of the amount
16 collected. The comptroller shall deposit the money from the fees to
17 the credit of the 9-1-1 services fee account. Until deposited to
18 the credit of the 9-1-1 services fee account as required by
19 Subsection (c), money the comptroller collects under this
20 subsection remains in a trust fund with the state treasury.

21 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.