



## **SENATOR STEVE WILSON**

**Financial Institutions and Technology Committee**

**Senator Steve Wilson**

**March 7, 2023**

**Senate Bill 50**

Chairman Wilson, Vice Chair Hackett, Ranking Member Smith, and members of the Senate Financial Institutions and Technology Committee, thank you for allowing my colleague, Senator Smith, and myself to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 50. This legislation makes a variety of changes to Ohio's Emergency Telephone Number System Law.

The primary objective of this bill is to bring Ohio's 9-1-1 and emergency management services infrastructure into the 21st century. In order to obtain this objective, this bill will direct the state and county governments to upgrade their current 9-1-1 infrastructure to "Next Generation 9-1-1" systems. Along with the required upgrades, there are various changes made to the composition and operation of county- and state- level agencies to support this endeavor. There are also changes to monthly fees imposed on customers in the state which expand the types of devices and services that are to be billed. Most notably, the current wireless 9-1-1 charge of \$0.25 per device or service, is replaced with the "Next Generation" charge of \$0.70 per device or service.

Since the bill is so far reaching, there are many inconsequential changes to current law, such as the removal of cross references to provisions of law the bill repeals, the re-numbering of sections of law to better accommodate new provisions the bill adds. To go with the theme of bringing Ohio into the 21st Century, this bill also repeals inoperative and obsolete provisions of state law that regard dates and deadlines which have already passed or situations which no longer apply.

These modifications will improve the efficiency of our emergency services by creating a more technologically savvy 9-1-1 system. I anticipate spirited debate on this bill and I thank you for allowing Senator Smith and myself to testify to Senate Bill 50. We will answer any questions that you have.