



Representative Brett Hudson Hillyer
Ohio's 98th House District

Chairman Oelslager, Vice Chair Plummer, Ranking Member Sweeney, and members of the House Finance Committee – thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on HB 278, regarding the Multi-Agency Radio Communication System or (MARCS).

The MARCS system is responsible for providing Ohio's First responders with state-of-the art communication to ensure effective and efficient operations during both emergency and everyday situations. The goal of this legislation is to make MARCS universal throughout Ohio while simultaneously benefiting the taxpayer and local municipalities using the system.

Currently, a wireless 9-1-1 charge is imposed on every wireless service subscriber with an Ohio billing address. The charge has been reduced repeatedly since its establishment. The charge was established in 2005 and set at thirty-two cents and reduced to twenty-eight cents per month in 2008 and currently sits at 25 cents per month per user. This legislation would increase that fee by 15 cents per user. Of that 15 cent increase 10 cents would be used for the MARCS system and 5 cents would be given to the 9-1-1 centers that are in dire need of additional funding across our state.

Specifically, the legislation will do the following:

- Implement a five year transition to the MARCS system through the state. Currently 78 of 88 counties are using the system.
- Leverage State assets to increase connectivity through a private to public partnership.
- Privatize MARCS towers through RFPS to save tax dollars, increase efficiency, and provide local governments with stable rates.
- Dedicate a portion of existing 911 dollars to the operations of the MARCS system throughout the state.

Thank you very much for allowing me the opportunity to testify on behalf of HB 278, I would be happy to answer any questions the committee may have.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brett Hillyer", is written in a cursive style.

Brett Hudson Hillyer
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