
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 1318

AN ACT ASSESSING A CERTAIN FEE FOR DEPOSIT INTO THE FIREFIGHTERS CANCER RELIEF ACCOUNT.

SUMMARY

This bill requires each telephone and telecommunications company providing local telephone service, and each provider of (1) commercial mobile radio service and (2) voice over Internet protocol (VOIP) service to charge each subscriber a new fee of five cents per month per service line. The funds collected through the charge must be deposited into the firefighters cancer relief account and be sent to the Office of the State Treasurer by the 15th day of each month.

Under the bill, a commercial mobile radio service is generally an interconnected, mobile service provided for profit and available to the public or a functional equivalent, including a mass-market service (by wire or radio) that provides the capability to transmit and receive data from nearly all internet endpoints. A VOIP service (1) enables real-time, two-way voice communication; (2) requires a broadband connection from the users' locations; (3) requires IP-compatible customer premises equipment; and (4) allows subscribers to receive and end calls that originate on the public switched telephone network.

The bill exempts prepaid wireless telecommunications services customers from the charge.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2025

BACKGROUND

Firefighters Cancer Relief Account

PA 16-10 established the account to fund wage replacement benefits for eligible paid and volunteer firefighters diagnosed with cancer and required the account to be funded by a diversion of money from the

enhanced emergency 9-1-1 program. A subsequent Public Utilities Regulatory Authority decision ruled that the diversion is not permissible under federal law. PA 17-2, June Special Session, removed this fee as the funding source.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable Change of Reference - FIN
Yea 25 Nay 3 (03/18/2025)

Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee

Joint Favorable
Yea 47 Nay 5 (04/24/2025)