

Why change 9-1-1 funding?

The old funding model was out of balance:

- It depended heavily on fees tied to landline service, which is rapidly declining.
- These landline fees varied (from 50 cents to almost \$5 a month) from place to place and between business and residential customers, making the funding of 9-1-1 unfair in some areas.
- At least two out of every three calls to 9-1-1 come from a wireless phone, and it takes expensive technology and extra manpower to respond to wireless calls.
- Wireless revenue is insufficient to cover the cost of these calls.
- A growing number of new communication devices were escaping the 9-1-1 fee.
- The distribution model for the existing service fee on wireless telephones relied solely on population, ensuring that funding for rural programs would continue to decline.

Ensuring Efficient 9-1-1 Service for Tomorrow

A new funding model for Alabama's 9-1-1 programs

Act 2012-293 set in motion a new statewide funding model for the local 9-1-1 programs operated to serve every citizen of Alabama. **The new model is rooted in the fact that all Alabamians, regardless of where they live, have an interest in dependable 9-1-1 service statewide.**

The new model is designed to produce a fair and equal service charge on all devices (*landline phones, wireless phones, voice over internet protocol, etc.*) capable of accessing the 9-1-1 communication network in Alabama. Effective Oct. 1, 2013, the varying 9-1-1 service charges on traditional landline telephones in each district will be replaced with a flat, equal fee throughout the state.

- Effective Oct. 1, 2013, the flat, equal fee will also apply to wireless telephone service, so-called "pre-paid" wireless service and all other devices that can communicate with the 9-1-1 network.
- The flat, equal fee will be distributed to each local 9-1-1 district to ensure that all districts receive their current level of funding, with an adjustment for inflation every five years, beginning in 2018.
- The flat, equal fee is based on an estimate of the total number of devices capable of accessing the 9-1-1 network in Alabama but will be reviewed and adjusted based on actual collections each year.
- The initial estimate was developed by researchers at Auburn University Montgomery, and then it was adjusted by a statewide board and a legislative review panel.
- Beginning Oct. 1, 2013, the flat, equal fee will be \$1.60 per line per month but will be subject to future review.
- A new study is underway to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of 9-1-1 in Alabama.

