

By: Moak

To: Public Utilities

HOUSE BILL NO. 664

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 19-5-313 AND 19-5-319, MISSISSIPPI
2 CODE OF 1972, TO AUTHORIZE COUNTIES TO ESTABLISH AND SUPPORT AN
3 EMERGENCY TELEPHONE WARNING SYSTEM WITH EXCESS 911 FUNDS; AND FOR
4 RELATED PURPOSES.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

6 SECTION 1. Section 19-5-313, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:[LH1]

8 19-5-313. (1) The board of supervisors may levy an
9 emergency telephone service charge in an amount not to exceed One
10 Dollar (\$1.00) per residential telephone subscriber line per month
11 and Two Dollars (\$2.00) per commercial telephone subscriber line
12 per month for exchange telephone service. Any emergency telephone
13 service charge shall have uniform application and shall be imposed
14 throughout the entirety of the district to the greatest extent
15 possible in conformity with availability of such service in any
16 area of the district. Those districts which exist on the date of
17 enactment of Chapter 539, Laws of 1993, shall convert to the
18 following structure for service charge levy: If the current
19 charge is five percent (5%) of the basic tariff service rate, the
20 new collection shall be Eighty Cents (\$.80) per month per
21 residential subscriber line and One Dollar and Sixty Cents (\$1.60)
22 per month per commercial subscriber line. The collections may be

23 adjusted as outlined in Chapter 539, Laws of 1993, and within the
24 limits set forth herein.

25 (2) If the proceeds generated by the emergency telephone
26 service charge exceed the amount of monies necessary to fund the
27 service, the board of supervisors may authorize such excess funds
28 to be expended by the county and the municipalities for a
29 computerized telephone warning system that warns residents of any
30 emergency situation by placing a telephone call to service users.
31 In addition, the county municipalities may use excess funds to
32 perform the duties and pay the costs relating to identifying
33 roads, highways and streets, as provided by Section 65-7-143. The
34 board of supervisors shall determine how the funds are to be
35 distributed in the county and among municipalities in the county
36 for paying the costs relating to identifying roads, highways and
37 streets. The board of supervisors may temporarily reduce the
38 service charge rate or temporarily suspend the service charge if
39 the proceeds generated exceed the amount that is necessary to fund
40 the service and/or to pay costs relating to identifying roads,
41 highways and streets. Such excess funds may also be used in the
42 development of county or district communications and paging
43 systems when used primarily for the alerting and dispatching of
44 public safety entities and for other administrative costs such as
45 management personnel, maintenance personnel and related building
46 and operational requirements. Such excess funds may be placed in
47 a depreciation fund for emergency and obsolescence replacement of
48 equipment necessary for the operation of the overall 911 emergency
49 telephone and alerting systems.

50 (3) No such service charge shall be imposed upon more than
51 twenty-five (25) exchange access facilities per person per
52 location. Trunks or service lines used to supply service to CMRS
53 providers shall not have a service charge levied against them.

54 Every billed service user shall be liable for any service charge
55 imposed under this section until it has been paid to the service
56 supplier. The duty of the service supplier to collect any such
57 service charge shall commence upon the date of its implementation,
58 which shall be specified in the resolution for the installation of
59 such service. Any such emergency telephone service charge shall
60 be added to and may be stated separately in the billing by the
61 service supplier to the service user.

62 (4) The service supplier shall have no obligation to take
63 any legal action to enforce the collection of any emergency
64 telephone service charge. However, the service supplier shall
65 annually provide the board of supervisors and board of
66 commissioners with a list of the amount uncollected, together with
67 the names and addresses of those service users who carry a balance
68 that can be determined by the service supplier to be nonpayment of
69 such service charge. The service charge shall be collected at the
70 same time as the tariff rate in accordance with the regular
71 billing practice of the service supplier. Good faith compliance
72 by the service supplier with this provision shall constitute a
73 complete defense to any legal action or claim which may result
74 from the service supplier's determination of nonpayment and/or the
75 identification of service users in connection therewith.

76 (5) The amounts collected by the service supplier
77 attributable to any emergency telephone service charge shall be
78 due the county treasury monthly. The amount of service charge
79 collected each month by the service supplier shall be remitted to
80 the county no later than sixty (60) days after the close of the
81 month. A return, in such form as the board of supervisors and the

82 service supplier agree upon, shall be filed with the county,
83 together with a remittance of the amount of service charge
84 collected payable to the county. The service supplier shall
85 maintain records of the amount of service charge collected for a
86 period of at least two (2) years from date of collection. The
87 board of supervisors and board of commissioners shall receive an
88 annual audit of the service supplier's books and records with
89 respect to the collection and remittance of the service charge.
90 From the gross receipts to be remitted to the county, the service
91 supplier shall be entitled to retain as an administrative fee, an
92 amount equal to one percent (1%) thereof. From and after March
93 10, 1987, the service charge is a county fee and is not subject to
94 any sales, use, franchise, income, excise or any other tax, fee or
95 assessment and shall not be considered revenue of the service
96 supplier for any purpose.

97 (6) In order to provide additional funding for the district,
98 the board of commissioners may receive federal, state, county or
99 municipal funds, as well as funds from private sources, and may
100 expend such funds for the purposes of Section 19-5-301 et seq.

101 SECTION 2. Section 19-5-319, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
102 amended as follows:[LH2]

103 19-5-319. (1) Automatic number identification (ANI),
104 automatic location identification (ALI), and geographic automatic
105 location identification (GeoALI) information that consist of the
106 name, address, and telephone number of telephone or wireless
107 subscribers shall be confidential and the dissemination of the
108 information contained in the 911 automatic number and location
109 data base is prohibited except for the following purposes: the

110 information will be provided to the Public Safety Answering Point
111 (PSAP) on a call-by-call basis only for the purpose of handling
112 emergency calls or for training, and any permanent record of the
113 information shall be secured by the Public Safety Answering Point
114 (PSAP) and disposed of in a manner which will retain that
115 security, except upon court order or subpoena from a court of
116 competent jurisdiction or as otherwise provided by law.

117 Information also may be provided to a county or municipality for
118 the purpose of implementing or updating an enhanced emergency
119 telephone warning system; however, such information may be used
120 only to identify the telephone location or service user and may
121 not be used or disclosed for any other purpose.

122 (2) All emergency telephone calls and telephone call
123 transmissions received pursuant to Section 19-5-301 et seq., and
124 all tapes containing records of the emergency telephone calls,
125 shall remain confidential and used only for the purposes as may be
126 needed for law enforcement, fire medical rescue or other emergency
127 services. These calls shall not be released to any other parties
128 without court order or subpoena from a court of competent
129 jurisdiction.

130 (3) Any person who knowingly violated this act is guilty of
131 a misdemeanor and shall be subject to fine or not more than Five
132 Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) or imprisonment of not more than thirty
133 (30) days in the county jail, or both fine and imprisonment.

134 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from
135 and after July 1, 2000.