Kansas 911 Act Amendments; SB 384

SB 384 clarifies several provisions in the 911 Act, which was enacted by the 2011 Legislature. The bill modifies the definition of the term "subscriber account," adds a definition for the term "multi-line telephone system," staggers the terms of office for voting members of the 911 Coordinating Council, and further specifies the process by which revenues from prepaid wireless are distributed to Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs). The specific changes are as follows:

- The definition of "subscriber account" is modified to specify the 911 fee will be imposed on the maximum number of simultaneous outbound calling capabilities of a multi-line telephone system or equivalent service. Multi-line telephone service is defined in the bill. (Prior law called for the fee to be assessed on every 10-digit access number assigned to a service user.)

- The initial terms of office of 911 Coordinating Council voting members will be for two, three, or four years. The bill staggers terms of office: the four members with an initial two-year term of office include those members representing information technology personnel from governmental units, the Adjutant General's Office, PSAPs in counties with less than a population of 75,000, and PSAPs in counties with a population greater than 75,000. The four members with an initial three-year term of office include those members representing information technology personnel from governmental units, the Emergency Medical Services Board, PSAPs in counties with less than a population of 75,000, and PSAPs in counties without regard to size. The four members with an initial four-year term of office include those members representing a fire chief, a law enforcement officer, the Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and PSAPs in counties with a population exceeding 75,000.

The bill further specifies the distribution method for prepaid wireless fees that are distributed to PSAPs. (The first $2.0 million of prepaid wireless revenue is placed in a grant fund; revenues in excess of $2.0 million are distributed.) Prior law called for the excess to be distributed to PSAPs based on place of primary use; however, that distribution was not available for prepaid wireless. The bill distributes the prepaid wireless revenues in excess of $2.0 million to counties based on their percentage share of the state population. In counties with more than one PSAP, the county share will be divided among the PSAPs based on the PSAP's share of the county population. In a county with no PSAP, the county share will be distributed to the PSAP providing service to such county.