



H.R. 3403 – 911 Modernization and Public Safety Act of 2007

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 3403 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Bart Gordon (D-TN) on August 3, 2007. The Committee on Energy and Commerce approved the bill, as amended, by voice vote on October 23, 2007.

H.R. 3403 is expected to be considered on the floor on November 13, 2007.

SUMMARY

H.R. 3403 requires IP-enabled voice service providers (Voice over Internet Protocol) to provide 911 and E-911 services to its subscribers. It also requires the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to issue regulations granting these providers access to the components that are necessary for 911 and E-911 services on the same rates, terms, and conditions as mobile service providers within 90 days of the bill's enactment.

The bill does not prevent States or Indian tribes from charging fees for supporting or implementing the 911 or E-911 services as long the funds collected are used to support or enhance those emergency services. It requires the FCC to annually report on the collection and expenditure of 911 fees.

The bill authorizes grants from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to be used for migration to an IP-enabled emergency network. It requires the E-911 Implementation Coordination Office to develop a national plan for migrating to a national IP-enabled emergency network capable of receiving and responding to all citizen-activated emergency communications.

The bill provides liability protection for IP-enabled voice service providers equal to that of wireless providers for releasing subscriber information to emergency officials.

BACKGROUND

IP-enabled voice services is a technology allowing individuals to make voice calls over the internet. The call can be computer-to-computer or computer-to-phone depending on the provider and the caller. This new technology, however, presents challenges for

emergency services because not all IP-enabled voice services providers provide 911 services, which is not necessarily known by the general public who may depend on it.

[Federal Communications Commission: VOIP and 911 Services](#)

[Federal Communications Commission: Voice Over Internet Protocol](#)

COST

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates “that implementing the bill would cost \$1 million over the 2008-2012 period.” ([CBO Estimate: H.R. 3403, 11/08/2007](#))

STAFF CONTACT

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