

# Michigan Public Safety Funding Proposal

## Executive Summary – Update September 13, 2007

### Overview

The Michigan Public Safety Funding Proposal benefits the Michigan criminal justice community by combining the interests of state, county, and local law enforcement agencies, as well as prosecutors, and fire service personnel. The purpose is to establish a secure funding source for critical public safety services across the state, allowing for consistent service delivery not dependent on an annual General Fund appropriation.

This proposal is funded by assessing a new monthly fee on all telecommunications devices capable of being used to request public safety services. The amount generated per year is dependent on the yet undetermined fee rate. Under this proposal, the revenue from the fee is placed in a restricted fund for the purpose of supporting public safety programs.

### Legislative Process

The Michigan Public Safety Funding Proposal was formally introduced to the Legislature on May 24, 2007, as House Bill 4852. The Law Enforcement Office Grant Program was added to the proposal on August 1, 2007, through the introduction of House Bill 5086.

On September 12, 2007, House Bill 4852 was merged into Senate Bills 410 and 411, which provide a revised funding mechanism for 911 emergency dispatch centers. The House Appropriations Committee then voted in favor of the bills and sent them to the full House for a vote.

The Michigan Public Safety Funding Proposal will continue through the legislative process as House Bill 5086 and Senate Bills 410 and 411.

### Revenue Distribution

The revenue generated by the Michigan Public Safety Funding Proposal is divided into different areas which each support a specific public safety function. Due to the collaborative nature of law enforcement in Michigan, the revenue ultimately benefits the entire criminal justice system.

The fund breakdown is subject to change as the bills move through the legislative process. As of September 13, 2007, this proposal was divided into the following areas:

Distribution	Annual Allocation	% of Fund	Fund Breakdown
Criminal Justice Information Systems	\$2,928,037.45	4.05%	\$0.0251
Forensic Science	\$25,752,270.15	35.62%	\$0.2208
First Responder Communication	\$7,959,924.04	11.01%	\$0.0683
Traffic Law Enforcement and Safety Fund	\$9,152,828.19	12.66%	\$0.0785
Law Enforcement Officer Safety Grants	\$9,152,828.19	12.66%	\$0.0785
MI Commission on Law Enforcement Standards	\$6,694,722.67	9.26%	\$0.0574
Prosecuting Attorneys Coordinating Council	\$1,829,119.69	2.53%	\$0.0157
State Fire Marshal & Fire Service	\$5,950,061.30	8.23%	\$0.0510
Video Arraignment	\$918,174.71	1.27%	\$0.0079
911 Non-emergency Call Diversion	\$918,174.71	1.27%	\$0.0079
Emergency Broadcast System	\$903,715.26	1.25%	\$0.0078
Poison Control Centers	\$137,364.72	0.19%	\$0.0012
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$72,297,221</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$0.62</b>

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### **I. Criminal Justice Information Systems**

The Michigan Public Safety Funding Proposal eliminates Law Enforcement Information Network (LEIN) user fees. All law enforcement agencies in the state, including courts and prosecutor's offices, are users of LEIN. Over 85 percent of LEIN traffic comes from county and local agencies. By removing the burden of a user fee, these agencies will be able to redirect funding to other critical areas, off-setting some of the loss of revenue sharing that has occurred in recent years.

### **II. Forensic Science**

As forensic analysis becomes increasingly important to the successful completion and prosecution of criminal cases, the MSP Forensic Science Division has experienced a sharp rise in the number of requests for assistance. Currently, over 90 percent of all forensic case work (at a cost of approximately \$24 million) and over 65 percent of computer crimes assistance is for county and local law enforcement agencies. The Michigan Public Safety Funding Proposal will shift funding for the state's forensic laboratories from the General Fund to Restricted Funding.

Additionally, this proposal will restore recently eliminated polygraph examiner positions and add additional forensic scientist positions. These new positions will help reduce current backlogs resulting in faster turnaround times for analysis and greater support throughout the case for investigators and prosecutors.

This proposal will also enhance the state's ability to conduct arson investigations and provide expert testimony by restoring eliminated fire investigator positions. Further, this proposal provides for an increase in the number of computer forensic examiners. With the prevalence of computer crimes placing our children at greater risk, the additional positions will allow law enforcement in Michigan to better combat this growing crime.

### **III. First Responder Communication**

This portion of the Michigan Public Safety Funding Proposal enhances interoperability among public safety agencies in the state by supporting the Michigan Public Safety Communication System (MPSCS). Currently, local agencies account for 84 percent of MPSCS use. With the secure funding provided by this proposal, Michigan citizens can rest assured they will always have a viable and cutting-edge public safety communication system.

### **IV. Traffic Law Enforcement and Safety Fund**

The MSP serves as Michigan's public safety net by providing assistance and service to communities across the state. Depending on the needs of a particular region of the state, those services range from road patrol and criminal investigation to specialty services like canine, aviation, underwater recovery, emergency support team, traffic crash reconstruction, and bomb squad. Over 70 percent of MSP specialty team calls are in assistance to local and county law enforcement agencies.

The Michigan Public Safety Funding Proposal will provide a consistent funding mechanism for these services and allow the MSP to maintain its trooper strength.

### **V. Law Enforcement Officer Safety Grants**

Michigan has experienced a dramatic decrease in the number of police officers since September 11, 2001. The Michigan Public Safety Funding Proposal offers county and local police agencies who lost officers since 2001, grant funding to hire officers. The 50 percent matching funds allow the agencies to employ two officers for the price of one. The grant allows a local unit of government (who can show an equivalent loss) to receive up to 15 grants per fiscal year.

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### **VI. Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards**

The Michigan Public Safety Funding Proposal provides funding to replace the general fund supported activities of the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES). All statutorily mandated functions of MCOLES would be funded under this proposal.

In addition, stable funding would be provided for the Public Safety Officer Benefit Program and Officer Survivor Tuition Waiver program. All auditor general citations would be addressed, and funds would be available to help offset the direct costs of mandatory in-service training.

### **VII. Prosecuting Attorneys Coordinating Council**

The Prosecuting Attorneys Coordinating Council (PACC) provides services to Michigan's Prosecuting Attorneys, their assistants, and other office staff in the areas of continuing professional education, legal publications, legal research assistance, and office automation services. The Michigan Public Safety Funding Proposal will provide training grants to PACC to allow them to offer training for emerging crime trends such as identity theft, terrorism, online sexual predation, and elder abuse.

### **VIII. State Fire Marshal & Fire Services**

The Michigan Public Safety Funding Proposal will support the Bureau of Fire Services within the Department of Labor and Economic Growth; transferring its funding from General Fund to Restricted Funding. Additional funding for fire fighting training grants is also included.

### **IX. Video Arraignment**

The Michigan Public Safety Funding Proposal funds enhancements to video conferencing for arraignments and hearings that will directly save local units of government the time and expense of transporting prisoners to hearings.

### **X. 9-1-1 Non-emergency Call Diversion**

The use of 9-1-1 for non-emergency telephone calls is a growing concern. In an attempt to address this issue on a nationwide basis, alternative non-emergency three-digit numbers were created. These systems are available in a few areas in Michigan and some currently operate without government assistance. The money in the Michigan Public Safety Funding Proposal will be available, as appropriate, to provide relief to the 9-1-1 system via the implementation of alternative three-digit call systems.

### **XI. Emergency Broadcast System**

### **XII. Poison Control Centers**