



2011-9

NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION SUPPORTS THE DEVELOPMENT AND CREATION OF STATE AND LOCAL PROGRAMS TO LIMIT THE USE OF SPECIFIC FUNDS FOR PROGRAMS THAT ONLY ENHANCE AND IMPROVE LOCAL 911 CENTERS

WHEREAS, 911 public safety answering points across the United States have worked diligently in recent years to enhance the ability of our 911 centers to keep up with today's communication advances, and have upgraded them or in the process of doing so to locate callers using wireless telephones, and to accept and relay new data such as vehicle accident information and medical data from an accident scene, all done at local expense;

WHEREAS, narrowbanding requirements from the federal government will cause further adaptations and add expense to the operation of our 911 public safety answering points;

WHEREAS, most states have enacted laws to fund the operation of 911 centers and to make sure that our emergency call centers have the best available technology to quickly respond to citizens who need help in emergency situations;

WHEREAS, Congress passed legislation in 2004 which penalizes recipients of federal funds if a state or locality diverts 911 fees for some other use, further requiring federal grant recipients to certify that no portion of any designated E-911 charges imposed by the state a locality are used for any purpose other than to deliver or improve E-911 services;

WHEREAS, in 2008, Congress passed an even stricter law, known as the "New and Emerging Technologies 911 Improvement Act of 2008," which was designed to provide that fees collected by States or their political subdivisions may only be used for 911 or E-911 services, or enhancements of such services;

WHEREAS, despite these federal laws, several states continue to raid 911 charges collected ostensibly for 911 purposes, and use those monies to fund other governmental activities which have little, or no, relation to 911 services;

WHEREAS, New York State is a prime example of raiding 911 fees, having collected over a billion dollars in state-imposed 911 fees in recent years, and diverting the vast majority of these funds to state programs not connected to county 911 centers, even though county 911 centers handle virtually all of the emergency calls from citizens for help;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Sheriffs' Association calls on complete and effective enforcement of federal laws prohibiting states or localities from diverting funds collected for the enhancement of 911 centers to other governmental programs;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the National Sheriffs' Association encourages state and local governments across the United States to implement programs to limit the use of funds collected from a tax or surcharge on wireless or wireline telephones to only those programs which will enhance and improve their 911 centers or designated public safety answering points, and to assist their 911 centers to quickly and professionally respond to emergency calls from the public.

Adopted at a Meeting of the General Membership in St. Louis, MO on June 20, 2011.