



Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request

Meeting Date: Tuesday, April 23, 2013
Prepared By/Phone Number: Deece Eckstein, 854-9754
Elected/Appointed Official/Dept. Head: Deece Eckstein, 854-9754
Commissioners Court Sponsor: Judge Biscoe

AGENDA LANGUAGE:

AT 11:00 A.M.:

CONSIDER AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION ON LEGISLATIVE MATTERS, INCLUDING:

- A. UPDATE ON LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES;
- B. LEGISLATION RELATING TO JUVENILE JUSTICE, INCLUDING [HB 1388](#);
- C. LEGISLATION RELATING TO THE CREATION OF REGIONAL EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICTS, INCLUDING [HB 1124](#) AND [SB 628](#); AND,
- D. ADDITIONS TO THE PRIORITIES, POLICY POSITIONS AND THE POSITIONS ON OTHER PROPOSALS SECTIONS OF THE TRAVIS COUNTY LEGISLATIVE AGENDA.

SUMMARY AND IGR COORDINATOR RECOMMENDATION:

See attachments.

BACKGROUND:

- 1) 140 bills that IGR is tracking were heard in committee during the week of April 15-19. Of those, we provided written or oral testimony on ____.¹ IGR will provide a spreadsheet with a full summary of those bills, but here are some highlights:
 - a) Kay Brock from the County Attorney's Office testified Monday on [SB 1606](#) and [HB 2445](#), which clarify that a taxing entity's lien on business personal property (inventory, equipment, etc.) applies wherever the property is located;

¹ Bills scheduled as of noon Wednesday, April 17, 2013.

- b) Elizabeth Winn from the County Attorney's Office testified Monday on [SB 471](#), the bill to eliminate the requirement that certain meetings have to be "tape" recorded, so we can use digital media to record and store the information;
- c) On Tuesday, the IGR Coordinator testified in committee hearings about
 - i) The creation of new courts ([SB 1629](#));
 - ii) Medicaid expansion ([HB 3376](#), [HB 3791](#)); and,
 - iii) Local option LIRAP and LIP programs ([HB 3812](#));
- d) On Tuesday, Sharon Talley from the County Attorney's Office testified in opposition to [HB 3117](#), which would eliminate local control over local government enforcement of environmental laws; and,
- e) On Wednesday, Judge Jeanne Meurer testified in favor of [HB 1388](#), the bill to expand the use of local secure facilities for juvenile offenders.
- f) On Thursday, the IGR Coordinator testified on legislation to promote local options for setting a homestead exemption, Local option homestead exemption ([HJR 138](#), [HB 3348](#))

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES:

- 1) Last week, the Court expressed its support of SB 511, relating to the commitment of certain juveniles to local post-adjudication secure correctional facilities in certain counties and to the release under supervision of those juveniles. Due to a posting error, the Court was not able to express its support for the House companion, HB 1388. IGR requests that the Court rectify the error.
- 2) Last week, the Court also discussed and expressed its support for [HB 1124](#) and [SB 628](#), relating to the creation of regional emergency communications districts. IGR requests that the Court ratify its adoption of the resolution.

FISCAL IMPACT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING: Not applicable.

REQUIRED AUTHORIZATIONS: None.

NAMES, PHONE NUMBERS AND EMAIL ADDRESSES OF PERSONS WHO MIGHT BE AFFECTED BY OR BE INVOLVED WITH THIS REQUEST:

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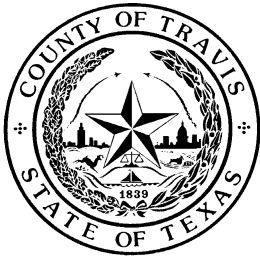
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AS OF	WEEK	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
THURSDAY		10-Jan	17-Jan	24-Jan	31-Jan	7-Feb	14-Feb	21-Feb	28-Feb	7-Mar	14-Mar
	HBs	446	550	686	845	1,035	1,282	1,582	2,001	2,841	3,862
	HJR s	39	43	44	51	58	63	72	83	106	130
	SB s	149	162	209	268	386	528	669	906	1,305	1,823
	SJR s	11	13	16	20	22	29	30	36	45	59
TOTAL	BILLS	645	768	955	1,184	1,501	1,902	2,353	3,026	4,297	5,874
TRAVIS COUNTY											
	TRACKED	167	281	305	368	474	551	636	712	1,064	1,428
	ANALYSES	109	137	281	346	430	485	627	723	878	1,135
	SUPPORT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
	OPPOSE	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	14	14

AS OF	WEEK	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
THURSDAY		21-Mar	28-Mar	4-Apr	11-Apr	18-Apr	25-Apr	2-May	9-May	16-May	23-May
	HB s	3,891	3,898	3,913	3,927	3,936					
	HJR s	130	130	130	130	130					
	SB s	1,843	1,855	1,865	1,884	1,900					
	SJR s	61	61	61	62	63					
TOTAL	BILLS	5,925	5,944	5,969	6,003	6,029					
TRAVIS COUNTY											
	TRACKED	1,433	1,457	1,466	1,479	1,485					
	ANALYSES	1,320	1,404	1,513	1,582	1,596					
	SUPPORT	3	5	5	5	11					
	OPPOSE	14	14	17	21	25					



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TO: Travis County Commissioners Court

THROUGH: Deece Eckstein, Coordinator, Intergovernmental Relations

DATE: Thursday, April 11, 2013 for Tuesday, April 16, 2013

RE: Legislation relating to juvenile justice, including SB 511

Bill/JR No. [SB 511](#), relating to the commitment of certain juveniles to local post-adjudication secure correctional facilities in certain counties and to the release under supervision of those juveniles.

Author Sen. John Whitmire

Last Action 04/04/2013 - Referred to House Corrections Committee

Bill/JR No. [HB 1388](#), relating to the commitment of certain juveniles to local post-adjudication secure correctional facilities in certain counties and to the release under supervision of those juveniles.

Author Rep. Paul Workman

Last Action 02/264/2013 - Referred to House Corrections Committee

Summary The bill would allow a juvenile court in a county with a population of at least 335,000 to commit juveniles adjudicated for a felony offense to a local post-adjudication secure correctional facility operated by or under contract with a local juvenile board or local juvenile probation department as an alternative to sending them to the State's institutional youth facilities. The bill also provides the ability for local juvenile probation departments to provide parole supervision for juveniles committed to and released from local post-adjudication secure correctional facilities.

Impact Travis County has been a leader in the evolution of community-based incarceration and rehabilitation. The Juvenile Probation Department staff has been working with the authors on this bill.

The bill does not appropriate State money, but could be the basis for an appropriation to reimburse counties for their expenses in housing and providing services to additional juveniles.

**Legislative
Agenda** No relevant provision.

Recommend SUPPORT.

Court Action Motion to support SB 511 and HB 1388, and to communicate the Court's support to members of the Travis County delegation and the entire Legislature.

Benefits of 9-1-1 Emergency Communications District for the CAPCOG 10-county region
[HB 1124 \(Workman et al.\)](#), [SB 628 \(Watson\)](#)
(from Betty Voights, CAPCOG)

- CAPCOG, working with its cities and counties, have already worked together to design and construct a Digital 9-1-1 System, commonly referred to as NextGen 9-1-1, and can more efficiently provide 9-1-1 services as an independent district managed by the local governments which it serves.
- NextGen 9-1-1 implementation requires installation of a secure digital network and equipment in the call centers (Public Service Answering Points/PSAPs) that can accept text messages, photos and video, alarm system alerts, transmission of health data, and direct links with services like OnStar and Medical Alert systems for seniors. CAPCOG is on the forefront of transitioning to these capabilities, moving at a quicker pace than the other 23 COGs in the Commission for State Emergency Communications (CSEC) program. In fact, CSEC proposes these services in our region in the 2016-17 biennium at a projected cost of \$6,535,400; this number exceeds what is needed and planned for our system which will provide a higher level of service than proposed by the state agency.
- This legislation proposes an Emergency Communications District that represents a hybrid between a COG-managed 9-1-1 program and a traditional district such as Harris, Tarrant or Bexar Counties have. It provides broader interpretation of eligible uses of funding, an important factor for a metro area like Austin/Travis County which has not fared well under CSEC's one-size-fits-all approach, because larger metro areas require more sophisticated equipment for call distribution, dispatch interconnectivity, records management interface, and complex disaster routing.
- And districts, such as those named above, received the 9-1-1 services fees paid by their citizens directly which ensures a predictable funding stream and allows for establishment of a capital replacement fund so fees can be set aside for timely equipment replacement.
- Forming a district at the regional level makes sense; our NextGen network is already being tested by the City of Austin to provide redundancy for our radio interoperability system, also constructed at a regional level. Plus, local governments of this region have developed protocols for regional response in the event of natural and manmade disasters using homeland security funding for the response equipment and radio system. These same local governments share an Emergency Notification System ("reverse 911") at regional level. The next step is to coordinate and link these systems with 9-1-1.
- CAPCOG working with its cities and counties is prepared to take this step but it's difficult to do it without adequate funding; this biennium CAPCOG is operating the region's 9-1-1 system on 68 percent of the funding paid by citizens of our cities and counties. We ask for a mechanism to ensure full funding and to allow us to proceed at the rate our citizens deserve, not wait for CSEC.
- Because Ch. 771.078 of the Health & Safety Code governing 9-1-1 programs operated by Regional Planning Commissions (COGs) calls for the fees collected to be distributed back to the

COGs proportionally based on population to provide 9-1-1 service, there should be no cost to the State unless non-appropriation of said funds is considered a cost.

Summary: There are several factors which make the case for designation of the ten-county region served by CAPCOG as a Regional Emergency Services District; the two primary factors are the population served by the COG's current 9-1-1 program and the rapid pace at which CAPCOG working, with its local governments, are deploying a NextGen digital 9-1-1 system while integrating additional emergency communications systems for radios and reverse 9-1-1.

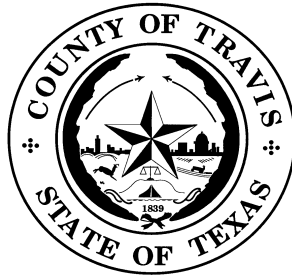
The nature of this region with unique growth issues coupled with a higher use of 9-1-1 requires sophisticated equipment and networking which cannot be funded under CSEC's rules.

- While 77 percent of the PSAPs in the CSEC program are three call-taking positions or less, half of CAPCOGs are larger:
 1. Austin-Travis County Combined Center – 78 positions
 2. Williamson County – 12 positions
 3. Round Rock 8
 4. Georgetown 6
 5. Hays County Consolidation (in progress) – 17 positions
- The average PSAP in the CSEC program represents 25,000 citizens or less; CAPCOG' PSAPs serve an average 60,000 citizens.

The rate of implementation of the NextGen 9-1-1 system as well as local 9-1-1 projects undertaken by individual counties continue to be called into question when the fees generated by the region are not returned to fund these services. The uncertainty of the biennial appropriation process, possible redirecting of 9-1-1 funding to non-local projects, and restrictive policies by CSEC make it ensure funding will be available for our region's 9-1-1 functions.

- All COGs are scheduled by CSEC on a 10-year equipment replacement schedule; however, there is no way to predict if sufficient revenue will be appropriated each biennium to cover replacement costs and this problem is larger for the COGs serving the largest population (highest call volumes translate to life of equipment).

Resolution



WHEREAS, all cities and counties in the Capital Area Council of Governments (CAPCOG) region with Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) providing 9-1-1 call taking services within their communications centers participate in its Regional 9-1-1 Program; and,

WHEREAS, the local governments working in partnership with CAPCOG are prepared for full implementation of Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG 911) to include an Emergency Services Internet as the platform for digital data to accompany 9-1-1 calls thereby allowing transmission of video, text, medical alerts, and other automated data resulting in a higher quality of service to citizens of this region; and,

WHEREAS, CAPCOG's progress to implement NG 911 as well as to integrate other emergency communications systems like "Reverse 911" and radio interoperability communications systems can be better sustained by a predictable revenue stream and expanded control over capital investments and operating policies currently not possible under the rules of the state's 9-1-1 agency, the Commission on State Emergency Communications; and,

WHEREAS, recognizing that the elected officials who serve on CAPCOG's Executive Committee are better positioned to have oversight over the region's 9-1-1 program than a state agency, thus ensuring the development and implementation of a plan that allows local governments to leverage local investments to collectively achieve maximum effectiveness and efficiencies; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Travis County Commissioners Court supports legislation to designate the Capital Area Council of Governments as an Emergency Communications District allowed by Chapter 772 of the Health and Safety Code of the State of Texas; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Travis County Commissioners Court supports the passage of House Bill 1124 and Senate Bill 628 and wishes to communicate that support to members of the Travis County delegation and to the entire Legislature.

SAMUEL T. BISCOE
COUNTY JUDGE

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COMMISSIONER, PCT. 1

SARAH ECKHARDT
COMMISSIONER, PCT. 2

GERALD DAUGHERTY
COMMISSIONER, PCT. 3

MARGARET J. GÓMEZ
COMMISSIONER, PCT. 4