

## SENATE BILL No. 273

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### DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

**Citations Affected:** IC 36-8.

**Synopsis:** 911 telecommunications fees. Increases the: (1) 911 service prepaid wireless charge; and (2) monthly statewide 911 fee; from \$1 to \$2.

**Effective:** July 1, 2026.

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**Spencer**

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January 8, 2026, read first time and referred to Committee on Homeland Security and Transportation.

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Introduced

Second Regular Session of the 124th General Assembly (2026)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2025 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

## SENATE BILL No. 273

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A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning utilities.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

1        SECTION 1. IC 36-8-16.6-11, AS AMENDED BY P.L.119-2024,  
2        SECTION 7, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
3        JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 11. (a) The board shall impose a 911 service  
4        prepaid wireless charge on each retail transaction. The charge is not  
5        required to be paid by an eligible telecommunications carrier that is  
6        required to pay the monthly statewide 911 fee under IC 36-8-16.7-32  
7        for the same transaction. The amount of the charge is ~~one dollar (\$1)~~  
8        **two dollars (\$2)**. The board may increase the 911 service prepaid  
9        wireless charge to ensure adequate revenue for the board to fulfill its  
10        duties and obligations under this chapter and IC 36-8-16.7. The  
11        following apply to an increase in the 911 service prepaid wireless  
12        charge:

13            (1) The board may increase the charge only one (1) time after  
14            April 30, 2023, and before July 1, 2026, in an amount not to  
15            exceed ten cents (\$0.10).  
16            (2) The board may increase the charge only after review by the  
17            budget committee.



(b) A consumer that is the federal government or an agency of the federal government is exempt from the 911 service prepaid wireless charge imposed under this section.

4 (c) This subsection applies to an eligible telecommunications carrier  
5 for purposes of receiving Lifeline reimbursement from the universal  
6 service fund through the administrator designated by the Federal  
7 Communications Commission. An eligible telecommunications carrier:

8 (1) is not considered an agency of the federal government for  
9 purposes of the exemption set forth in subsection (b); and  
10 (2) with respect to prepaid wireless telecommunications service  
11 provided to end users by the eligible telecommunications carrier  
12 in its capacity as an eligible telecommunications carrier, is liable  
13 for the charge imposed under subsection (d).

14 (d) Beginning September 1, 2015, and on the first day of each  
15 month thereafter, an eligible telecommunications carrier described in  
16 subsection (c) shall pay to the board a charge equal to the product of  
17 the following factors:

18 (1) The 911 service prepaid wireless charge established under  
19 subsection (a).

(2) The number of unique end users for which the eligible telecommunications carrier received reimbursement from the universal service fund during the immediately preceding month.

23 The eligible telecommunications carrier may bill and collect from each  
24 end user the charges calculated under this subsection with respect to  
25 the end user. The eligible telecommunications carrier shall determine  
26 the manner in which the eligible telecommunications carrier bills and  
27 collects the charges. Except as provided in section 15 of this chapter,  
28 an eligible telecommunications carrier may not bill and collect from an  
29 end user an amount greater than the charges paid by the eligible  
30 telecommunications carrier to the board with respect to the end user.

35 (1) the effective date for the increase; and

36 (2) the amount of the charge as increased by the board.

37 SECTION 2. IC 36-8-16.7-32, AS AMENDED BY P.L.119-2024,  
38 SECTION 22, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
39 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 32. (a) Except as provided in subsections (b) and  
40 (d), and subject to section 48(e) of this chapter, the board shall assess  
41 a monthly statewide 911 fee on each standard user that is a customer  
42 having a place of primary use in Indiana at a rate that ensures full



1 recovery of the amount needed for the board to make distributions to  
2 county treasurers consistent with this chapter and that provides for the  
3 proper development, operation, and maintenance of a statewide 911  
4 system. The amount of the fee assessed under this subsection is ~~one~~  
5 ~~dollar (\$1).~~ **two dollars (\$2).** The board may adjust the statewide 911  
6 fee to ensure adequate revenue for the board to fulfill the board's duties  
7 and obligations under this chapter, subject to the following:

8 (1) The following apply to an increase in the fee:  
9 (A) The board may increase the fee only one (1) time after  
10 April 30, 2023, and before July 1, 2026, in an amount not to  
11 exceed ten cents (\$0.10).  
12 (B) The board may increase the fee only after review by the  
13 budget committee.  
14 (2) The fee may not be lowered more than one (1) time in a  
15 calendar year.  
16 (3) The fee may not be lowered by an amount that is more than  
17 ten cents (\$0.10) without legislative approval.  
18 (b) The fee assessed under this section does not apply to a prepaid  
19 user in a retail transaction under IC 36-8-16.6.  
20 (c) An additional fee relating to the provision of 911 service may  
21 not be levied by a state agency or local unit of government. A 911  
22 service prepaid wireless charge (as defined in IC 36-8-16.6-0.5) is not  
23 considered an additional fee relating to the provision of wireless 911  
24 service for purposes of this section.  
25 (d) A user is exempt from the fee if the user is any of the following:  
26 (1) The federal government or an agency of the federal  
27 government.  
28 (2) The state or an agency or instrumentality of the state.  
29 (3) A political subdivision (as defined in IC 36-1-2-13) or an  
30 agency of a political subdivision.  
31 (4) A user that accesses communications service solely through  
32 a wireless data only service plan.  
33 (e) This subsection applies to an eligible telecommunications carrier  
34 for purposes of receiving Lifeline reimbursement from the universal  
35 service fund through the administrator designated by the Federal  
36 Communications Commission. An eligible telecommunications carrier:  
37 (1) is not considered an agency of the federal government for  
38 purposes of the exemption set forth in subsection (d); and  
39 (2) with respect to communications service provided to end users  
40 by the eligible telecommunications carrier in its capacity as an  
41 eligible telecommunications carrier, is liable for the fee assessed  
42 under subsection (f).



5 (1) The monthly statewide 911 fee established under subsection  
6 (a).

7 (2) The number of unique end users for which the eligible  
8 telecommunications carrier received reimbursement from the  
9 universal service fund during the immediately preceding month.

The eligible telecommunications carrier may bill and collect from each end user the fees calculated under this subsection with respect to the end user. The eligible telecommunications carrier shall determine the manner in which the eligible telecommunications carrier bills and collects the fees. Except as provided in section 33(d) of this chapter, an eligible telecommunications carrier may not bill and collect from an end user an amount greater than the fees paid by the eligible telecommunications carrier to the board with respect to the end user.

22 (1) the effective date for the increase or decrease; and  
23 (2) the amount of the charge as increased or decreased by the  
24 board.

