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H.B. 280
134th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Cross and Plummer

Margaret E. Marcy, Attorney

SUMMARY

- Requires the Director of Administrative Services to submit user fee information for the Multi-Agency Radio Communications System (MARCS) to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House by January 31 of every odd-numbered year.
- Specifies that the General Assembly may appropriate funds from the GRF to offset any increases in MARCS user fees for local government users of the system.
- Prohibits the Director of Administrative Services, the MARCS Steering Committee, or the Director of Budget and Management from entering into any agreement to raise, lower, or modify user fees based on the expected General Assembly offsets.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

MARCS user fees

The Multi-Agency Radio Communications System (MARCS) is a radio and data network that provides statewide, secure, public service wireless communication for public safety and first responders. The system is available to federal, state, and local agencies and organizations.¹ The Department of Administrative Services (DAS) sets and collects user fees from MARCS participants, with the advice of the MARCS Steering Committee and the consent of the Director of Budget and Management (OBM).²

The bill requires the Director of DAS to submit MARCS user fee information to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House by January 31 of every odd-numbered year. The submission must include any information necessary for the General Assembly to

¹ [DAS MARCS website](#).

² R.C. 4501.29(A).

determine an appropriate amount to offset any increases in the user fee for local governments.³ The bill specifies that the General Assembly may appropriate funds from the GRF for those offsets. The bill's specified intent is that local governments will continue to pay the user fee amount they currently pay, as of the effective date of the bill, with the General Assembly covering any future increases to that amount.⁴

The bill prohibits the Director of DAS, the MARCS Steering Committee, or the Director of OBM from entering into any agreement to raise, lower, or modify the user fees based on the expectation that the General Assembly will offset the local government user fee.⁵

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	05-03-21

H0280-I-134/ar

³ R.C. 4501.29(B).

⁴ R.C. 4501.29(C).

⁵ R.C. 4501.29(D).