

**First Regular Session  
Seventy-fifth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**PREAMENDED**

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee  
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 25-0247.01 Michael Dohr x4347

**SENATE BILL 25-031**

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**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Roberts, Cutter, Jodeh, Marchman, Michaelson Jenet, Weissman**

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Soper and Velasco, Bacon**

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**Senate Committees**

Business, Labor, & Technology  
Appropriations

**House Committees**

Business Affairs & Labor

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING GOVERNMENT AGENCY ASSISTANCE IN SERVICES**  
102 **RELATED TO WIRELESS COMMUNICATION.**

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**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov/>.)*

**Cell Phone Connectivity Interim Study Committee.** The bill requires the division of homeland security and emergency management in the department of public safety (division) to develop a single point of contact within the division to:

- Help ensure statewide coverage of the integrated public alert and warning system for wireless emergency alerts and

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.  
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

SENATE  
3rd Reading Unamended  
March 19, 2025

SENATE  
Amended 2nd Reading  
March 18, 2025

- the emergency alert system;
- Provide technical assistance to local jurisdictions on becoming integrated public alert and warning system certified;
- Provide technical assistance, consistent with the language access in emergency communications study, to implement best practices for inclusive alerting; and
- Offer recommendations to improve current wireless alert systems in Colorado that address language and access needs.

Under current law, the Colorado broadband office (office) has certain duties related to broadband in Colorado. The bill requires the office to also perform those duties for wireless services.

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1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-37.5-903, amend**  
 3 **(2)(b) as follows:**

4 **24-37.5-903. Colorado broadband office - creation -**  
 5 **responsibilities - gifts, grants, or donations. (2) (b) The broadband**  
 6 **office shall provide technical assistance to applicants seeking grant**  
 7 **awards from the grant program or other state or federal grant**  
 8 **opportunities offered for deploying broadband AND WIRELESS service.**

9 **SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, add 24-33.5-719 as**  
 10 **follows:**

11 **24-33.5-719. Emergency alerts - definitions. (1)(a) BEGINNING**  
 12 **JULY 1, 2027, AN ALERTING AUTHORITY SHALL DISSEMINATE EMERGENCY**  
 13 **ALERTS IN ENGLISH AND IN A PREDOMINANT MINORITY LANGUAGE IF THE**  
 14 **ALERTING AUTHORITY COVERS A COUNTY OR CITY IN WHICH AT LEAST TWO**  
 15 **THOUSAND OR TWO AND ONE-HALF PERCENT OF RESIDENTS WHO ARE**  
 16 **EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER SPEAK THE PREDOMINANT MINORITY**  
 17 **LANGUAGE AND SPEAK ENGLISH LESS THAN VERY WELL, AS REPORTED BY**  
 18 **THE UNITED STATES CENSUS BUREAU'S AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY**

1 OR COMPARABLE AVAILABLE AND VALIDATED CENSUS DATA.

2 (b) AN EMERGENCY ALERT MUST BE SENT IN THE TIMELIEST  
3 MANNER POSSIBLE WHEN USING BROADCAST EMERGENCY ALERTS AND  
4 EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEMS. AN ALERTING AUTHORITY MAY  
5 DISSEMINATE EMERGENCY ALERTS BY USING PRELOADED RESIDENT DATA  
6 AND VOLUNTARY REGISTRATIONS. AN ALERTING AUTHORITY SHALL  
7 COMPLY WITH 42 U.S.C. SEC. 12101 ET SEQ., WHEN DISSEMINATING  
8 EMERGENCY ALERTS.

9 (c) EMERGENCY ALERTS MUST BE IN PLAIN LANGUAGE.

10 (d) EMERGENCY ALERTS SENT IN ENGLISH VIA THE BROADCAST  
11 EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM MUST ALSO BE SENT IN PREDOMINATE  
12 MINORITY LANGUAGES THAT THE SYSTEM SUPPORTS.

13 (2) IN ADDITION TO COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS IN  
14 SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION, THE STATE, COUNTIES, MUNICIPALITIES,  
15 AND ALERTING AUTHORITIES ARE ENCOURAGED TO USE AVAILABLE  
16 TECHNOLOGY TO ISSUE EMERGENCY ALERTS IN AS MANY LANGUAGES AS  
17 POSSIBLE IN THE SAME METHOD AS AN ENGLISH ALERT.

18 (3) (a) THE STATE MAY PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO COUNTIES,  
19 MUNICIPALITIES, AND ALERTING AUTHORITIES IN IMPLEMENTING THIS  
20 SECTION.

21 (b) EACH ALERTING AUTHORITY THAT IS REQUIRED TO SEND  
22 EMERGENCY ALERTS IN A PREDOMINANT MINORITY LANGUAGE PURSUANT  
23 TO SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION IS ENCOURAGED TO CONDUCT  
24 COMMUNITY OUTREACH TO INFORM PEOPLE WITH LIMITED ENGLISH  
25 PROFICIENCY OF THE AVAILABILITY OF LANGUAGE INTERPRETATION AND  
26 TRANSLATION OPTIONS FOR EMERGENCY ALERTS. EXISTING EMERGENCY  
27 NOTIFICATION SYSTEMS INSTALLED OR SUBSCRIBED TO BY AN ALERTING

1 AUTHORITY MUST ADHERE TO THIS SECTION AS THE ALERTING  
2 APPLICATION ALLOWS AND IN THE TIMELIEST MANNER. ALERTING  
3 AUTHORITIES THAT ARE REQUIRED TO SEND EMERGENCY ALERTS IN A  
4 PREDOMINANT MINORITY LANGUAGE PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1) OF  
5 THIS SECTION MAY MEET THE REQUIREMENTS BY ANY AVAILABLE METHOD,  
6 INCLUDING TECHNOLOGY, EMPLOYEES, OR VENDORS.

7 (4) THE 911 SERVICES ENTERPRISE CREATED IN SECTION 29-11-108  
8 MAY DISTRIBUTE GRANTS TO MUNICIPAL OR COUNTY ALERTING  
9 AUTHORITIES TO IMPLEMENT LANGUAGE AND ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES FOR  
10 EMERGENCY ALERTS. THE ENTERPRISE BOARD OF DIRECTORS SHALL  
11 DETERMINE THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF THE GRANTS AND THE MANNER OF  
12 DISTRIBUTION OF THE GRANTS. THE 911 SERVICES ENTERPRISE SHALL USE  
13 ENTERPRISE FUNDS TO SUPPORT DISTRIBUTION OF THE GRANTS.

14 (5) FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT  
15 OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

16 (a) "ALERTING AUTHORITY" MEANS A JURISDICTION WITH THE  
17 DESIGNATED AUTHORITY TO ALERT AND WARN THE PUBLIC WHEN THERE  
18 IS AN IMPENDING NATURAL OR HUMAN-MADE DISASTER, THREAT, OR  
19 DANGEROUS OR MISSING PERSON.

20 (b) "BROADCAST EMERGENCY ALERT" INCLUDING WIRELESS  
21 EMERGENCY ALERTS MEANS SHORT EMERGENCY MESSAGES FROM  
22 AUTHORIZED FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL, AND TERRITORIAL PUBLIC ALERTING  
23 AUTHORITIES THAT MAY BE BROADCAST IN MULTIPLE DELIVERY FORMATS,  
24 INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, CELLULAR PROVIDERS, TO ANY  
25 PRE-ENABLED DEVICE IN A LOCALLY TARGETED AREA. WIRELESS  
26 PROVIDERS PRIMARILY USE CELL BROADCAST TECHNOLOGY FOR MESSAGE  
27 DELIVERY. THE SYSTEM UTILIZED FOR BROADCASTING EMERGENCY

1 ALERTS IS A PARTNERSHIP AMONG THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY  
2 MANAGEMENT AGENCY, THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
3 AND WIRELESS PROVIDERS TO ENHANCE PUBLIC SAFETY.

4 (c) "EMERGENCY ALERT" MEANS CRITICAL LIFE SAFETY  
5 INFORMATION DISSEMINATED BY AN ALERTING AUTHORITY THAT ADVISES  
6 THE PUBLIC TO PREPARE TO TAKE ACTION OR TAKE ACTION IMMEDIATELY  
7 DUE TO AN IMMINENT LIFE THREAT.

8 (d) "EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM" MEANS A  
9 COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM OR NETWORK OF SYSTEMS, AS DEFINED BY THE  
10 ALERTING AUTHORITY, DESIGNED TO QUICKLY ALERT THE PUBLIC TO  
11 CRITICAL LIFE SAFETY INFORMATION THROUGH MULTIPLE  
12 COMMUNICATIONS CHANNELS INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, TEXT  
13 MESSAGES, PHONE CALLS, EMAILS, OR DESKTOP ALERTS.

14 (e) "PREDOMINANT MINORITY LANGUAGE" MEANS A LANGUAGE  
15 SPOKEN BY AT LEAST TWO THOUSAND OR TWO AND ONE-HALF PERCENT OF  
16 RESIDENTS WHO ARE EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER WHO ALSO SPEAK  
17 ENGLISH LESS THAN VERY WELL IN A CITY OR COUNTY WITHIN AN  
18 ALERTING AUTHORITY'S JURISDICTION, AS REPORTED BY THE AMERICAN  
19 COMMUNITY SURVEY DATA OR COMPARABLE AVAILABLE AND VALIDATED  
20 CENSUS DATA.

21 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 29-11-108, **add**  
22 **(5)(b)(V.5) as follows:**

23 **29-11-108. 911 services enterprise - creation - powers and**  
24 **duties - cash fund - legislative declaration. (5) The enterprise's primary**  
25 **powers and duties are to:**

26 **(b) Distribute funding to governing bodies, PSAPs, statewide 911**  
27 **organizations, or third parties for the benefit of governing bodies or**

1 PSAPs for purposes that are pre-approved by the board of directors of the  
2 enterprise and are consistent with applicable statutes, regulations,  
3 ordinances, policies, and procedures. The purposes may include:

4 (V.5) AWARDING GRANTS TO LOCAL ALERTING AUTHORITIES, AS  
5 DEFINED IN SECTION 24-33.5-719 (5), TO IMPLEMENT LANGUAGE AND  
6 ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES FOR EMERGENCY ALERTS;

7   
8 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 29-11-102.5, add  
9 (1.5) as follows:

10 **29-11-102.5. Imposition of charge on prepaid wireless -**  
11 **prepaid wireless trust cash fund - rules - applicability - definitions -**  
12 **repeal.** (1.5) THIS SECTION APPLIES TO PREPAID WIRELESS  
13 TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE. ALL OTHER TELECOMMUNICATION  
14 SERVICES ARE SUBJECT TO SECTIONS 29-11-102 AND 29-11-102.3.

15 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 40-17.5-101, add  
16 (9.5) as follows:

17 **40-17.5-101. Definitions.** As used in this article 17.5, unless the  
18 context otherwise requires:

19 (9.5) "PREPAID WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE", FOR  
20 THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, HAS THE SAME MEANING AS IN SECTION  
21 29-11-101.

22 **SECTION 6. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
23 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
24 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except  
25 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V  
26 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this  
27 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take

- 1 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
- 2 November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
- 3 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.