

SENATE BILL 966

By Southerland

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4;
Title 5; Title 6; Title 7; Title 9 and Title 65, relative
to mobile communication systems in rural
Tennessee.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1.

(a) The Tennessee advisory commission on intergovernmental relations (TACIR) is directed to study and make recommendations relative to the provision of adequate radio, cellular, or satellite mobile communications systems to rural areas of this state for the purpose of granting access to 911 and emergency services to elementary and secondary school personnel, including school bus drivers, law enforcement officers, firefighters, and first responders.

(b) TACIR shall study, with respect to the provision of expanded access to 911 and emergency services in rural areas of this state:

- (1) Feasibility;
- (2) The costs to both the state and local governments;
- (3) Mechanisms for funding, including any grants or sources of federal funding;
- (4) Programs utilized in other states for similar purposes; and
- (5) Any alternative mobile communications systems capable of facilitating access to 911 and emergency services in rural areas of this state;

(c) TACIR shall seek input from communications providers operating in this state with respect to the costs and feasibility of expanding mobile communications services in the rural areas of this state.

(d) TACIR shall seek and receive assistance from all appropriate state agencies in conducting the study under this section.

(e) On or before January 1, 2018, TACIR shall provide its recommendations and report regarding mobile communications systems to the governor and the speakers of the senate and the house of representatives.

(f) It is the legislative intent that this study be conducted within TACIR's existing resources.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.