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### RELIABILITY OF 911 COULD BE AT RISK

#### SENATE BILL 16-183 IF PASSED WOULD REMOVE PUC OVERSIGHT OF CABLE PROVIDER'S PORTION OF 911 SERVICE.

The senate bill was drafted by a cable provider to eliminate any possible interpretation of current legislation that would give the PUC authority for overseeing the quality of cable provider's (including wireless providers) 911 service. In testimony before a senate committee, a spokesman for a cable company made it clear that the company would sue the state if the bill was not passed by the legislature and signed by the governor. **To put our concern in context: approximately 90% of 911 calls are from cable and wireless phones.**

This is just the ongoing saga of the telecom bills passed by the legislature in 2014. Since the legislation was adopted, Ed Shackelford's cable bill has increased 28% and the phone line/internet access has gone up 31%. (For accuracy — the billing of the cable companies was never regulated by the PUC, but within months after passage of the legislation the cable bill increased significantly.)

This is an annual increase of \$539.28 (\$269.64 per person for a family of 2). There are 866,625 seniors 65 and older. If they all experienced this increase, there is an annual cost to seniors of \$233,676,765. Even if the cost to seniors is half, the amount is still very significant.

It is time to contact your state senator and state representative and other legislators and tell them enough is enough. Endangering the reliability of 911 is just not acceptable.

Go to page 6 of this newsletter to see all you can and should do to protect the integrity of 911 service provided by cable companies.

For anyone who would like assistance please contact the Colorado Senior Lobby. We will go with you to visit your legislator.

**See page 2 for the highlights of the legislation, as prepared by AARP.**

**WEB Master — pro bono**  
**SeniorsResourceGuide.com**  
**Karin Hall 303-794-0799**

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**LEGISLATION BEGINS WHEN THE FEAR OF DOING NOTHING AT ALL FINALLY TRUMPS THE TERROR OF DOING IT BADLY, OR NOT AT ALL.** Paraphrased from Alain De Botton, author

**Prepared by AARP Colorado**

**We are asking that you stand with first responders and consumers and  
Oppose SB 16-183**

**Sponsored by Sens. Mark Scheffel and Andrew Kerr and  
Reps. Angela Williams and Polly Lawrence**

SB 183 is a last-minute bill being promoted by the large telecom carriers that would take away Public Utilities Commission (PUC) authority over 911 services.

- The PUC's current 9-1-1 rules, which protect consumers regardless of technology, have been in effect since at least 2007.
- Under SB 183, consumers could only go to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) for help with 9-1-1 service problems. Good luck with that.
- Any new state PUC rules could only go into effect if the Attorney General found they were in compliance with state law.
- The General Assembly annually reviews all rules to ensure they comply with state law.
- The current rules have been approved year after year.
- In 2008, Congress gave the FCC power, which it has done, to delegate the regulation of 9-1-1, regardless of technology, to state PUCs.
- HB 14-1329 and 1331 emphasized that the PUC continues to retain jurisdiction over "basic emergency service," not just the "basic emergency service provider."
- In signing the 2014 bills, Gov. Hickenlooper wrote specifically that the PUC kept jurisdiction over basic emergency service, "regardless of technology."
- The only thing that is broken is the promise of legislators and the telecom providers when they agreed to the status quo in 2014.
- All telecom companies, regardless of technology, are already exempt under state law from damages caused if a 9-1-1 call doesn't go through.

From a consumer standpoint, there are two ways to make a call. Everything else is noise and meant to confuse you. The first way is by wire (or land) line through a phone or handset connected to a wall phone jack. This can be either through a traditional landline carrier such as CenturyLink or a cable telephone provider such as Comcast. The second way is wireless through a cell provider. It doesn't matter if the technology is analog or digital, TDM (time division multiplexing used by the traditional phone system) or internet protocol-based (such as Voice over Internet Protocol).

### **Groups who oppose SB 183 (in no particular order):**

*AARP Colorado \*Colorado Combined Chapter of NENA/APCO (National Emergency Number Association/Association of Public Safety Communications Officials) \*Emergency Medical Services Association of Colorado \*Pitkin County board of Commissioners \*AFL-CIO \* Colorado State Fire Chiefs\* County Sheriffs of Colorado\* Colorado Municipal League\* Colorado Professional Fire Fighters \* Communications Workers of America\* Colorado Association of Chiefs of Police \*Colorado 911 Resource Center \*Colorado Cross Disability Coalition \*Colorado Senior Lobby\* Colorado Alliance of Retired Americans (CARA) \*Delta County Sheriff's Office \*Garfield County Emergency Communications Authority \*Grand Junction Emergency Service Telephone Authority \* Colorado Common Cause \* Moffat County E911 Authority\* League of Women Voters of Colorado\* EMSAC Emergency Medical Services Association of Colorado*

## HB16-1403 Colorado Secure Savings Plan

Colorado Senior Lobby is Strongly Supporting this bill. It is fact that American citizens are not good savers. Consequently, for retirees, too many live on little but Social Security. This is very limited and does not provide extra income to cover the many special needs of seniors. Historically, even with limited saving, home ownership provided a source of supplemental finances. But relatively recent developments in the real estate market have shown that home ownership is declining. Without savings and without home ownership the seniors of the future will undoubtedly need more services provided by government and by non-profits.

This bill anticipates this trend — and takes an important, needed step to provide a better means of saving for many. It increases access to a solid, reliable savings program, similar to the benefit provided by some employers.

The opposition to this bill is based on a core belief that there are too many governmental requirements, regulations, etc. burdening small business. Anyone who has owned a small business knows the frustration of compliance.

But — the impact of the aging population on the state (and federal) budget is severe. This will be one of many important steps needed to managing future budgets. Every dollar saved by the individual is a dollar that will not have to be spent at some future date to provide a government service to someone in need.

**Technology makes it easier.** With the current automation of payroll preparation available to all businesses, once the data is entered into the software program, the calculations will be automatic, causing very little additional burden on the small business person.

The bill establishes the Colorado secure savings plan, which is a retirement savings plan for private-sector employees in the form of an automatic enrollment payroll deduction individual retirement account. Employers with a specified number of employees in the state are required to participate in the plan, but any employer may choose to participate in the plan. The Colorado secure savings plan board of trustees is created and consists of the state controller, the director of the governor's office of state planning and budgeting, and 7 additional trustees with certain experience who are appointed by the governor and confirmed by the senate.

See page 4 for an explanation of the bill.

**IN SUMMARY:** this bill fits the Senior Lobby's fundamental belief that we can not continue do the same thing. There is no revenue projection that indicates there will be enough revenue. SO!! We have to make good decisions — far reaching decisions to insure needed services can be provided.

# Colorado Secure Savings Plan (HB16-1403)

*(Sponsors: Representatives Pettersen and Buckner and Senators Todd and Donovan)*

## **Helping Coloradans Work & Save**

For more information or to join the coalition supporting the Colorado Secure Savings Plan, please email [abigail.hinga@gmail.com](mailto:abigail.hinga@gmail.com)

**What the bill does:** The Colorado Secure Savings Plan creates a public-private partnership allowing employees not currently offered access to a workplace retirement plan to save for their future. The program will help young people, small business employees and those working on contract or with multiple jobs invest.

**Why we need this bill:** For decades, Americans have built their retirement with traditional pensions, Social Security and personal savings. Saving through a workplace retirement plan is the easiest and best way for most workers to save, yet almost half of Colorado private-sector workers currently do not have any type of retirement savings plan at work. This program will help fill that significant gap. Adequate savings can mean the difference between making ends meet in retirement or living in poverty.

## **Consider the facts:**

- ◆ 45 percent of Colorado's private-sector workers, or 753,972 Coloradans, have no retirement savings plan at work.
- ◆ Younger workers are disproportionately affected. 49 percent of Colorado workers age 25-29, 45 percent of those age 30-34 and 48 percent of those age 35 to 39 have no retirement savings plan at work.
- ◆ Eight out of 10 Coloradans working in our state's smallest businesses — those with fewer than 10 employees — have no workplace retirement plan. Six in 10 of those working at businesses with 10-49 employees have no workplace plan.
- ◆ 76 percent of Colorado's lowest-paid workers have no retirement plan at work.
- ◆ 56 percent of Hispanic, 49 percent of African-American and 44 percent of female workers in Colorado have no retirement plan at work.

## **How the Colorado Secure Savings Plan works:**

- ◆ Creates a public-private partnership that would pool employee contributions, hold them in trust and invest them
- ◆ Workers save a portion of their wages through a simple, opt-out payroll deduction.
- ◆ Investments are professionally managed with capped fees and includes options to disburse retirement benefits through a lifetime annuity.
- ◆ Helps small business owners save and provide their employees with access to a retirement savings plan.
- ◆ Shields the state and employers from any financial obligation or liability.
- ◆ Applies to employees who are not offered other retirement plans besides Social Security.
- ◆ Portable between jobs in Colorado and available when working multiple jobs because it follows the employee .
- ◆ Addresses our rapidly changing workforce dynamics by making saving easier for Coloradans who are self-employed, on contract or working multiple jobs to invest for their future.

*For more information contact [Abigail.Hinga@gmail.com](mailto:Abigail.Hinga@gmail.com).*

**SENIOR DAY AT THE CAPITOL — MARCH 30, 2016**



Jim Riesberg—Chair  
Strategic Action  
Planning Group  
On Aging



Representative  
Lebsack



Representative  
McCann



Senator Crowder



Seth Greiner  
Senior Lobby Director  
Representative  
Mitsch Bush



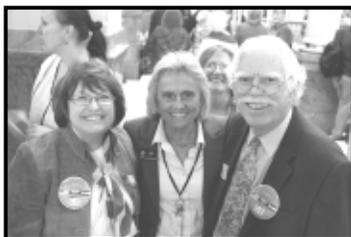
Attorney General  
Cynthia Coffman



Representative Buck



Senator Heath



Ruth Long—Chair  
Colorado Commission  
On Aging  
Representative Ginal  
Ed Shackelford  
President Senior Lobby



Rich Mauro  
Senior Lobby  
Director  
Jayla  
Sanchez- Warren  
Both with DRCOG



Eileen Doherty  
Colorado  
Gerontological  
Society  
Senator Kefalas



Governor Hickenlooper



Bob Epstein—Chair  
Colorado Senior Lobby  
And Friends

# Nuts & Bolts of Influencing Legislation

## INFLUENCING LEGISLATION BY CONTACTING LEGISLATORS

By David Barclay

### A WHO TO TALK TO WHEN YOU CAN'T MEET WITH THEM ALL

- 1 Your friends in the legislature, first.
- 2 Your own legislator, second.
- 3 The committee(s) that is handling the bill, third and fourth.
- 4 The kingpins for your issue, third and fourth.

### B MEETING WITH LEGISLATORS

- 1 The most effective way to meet with a legislator (with the most effective listed first).
  - a Meet with legislator at his or her home.
  - b Phone calls to his or her home.
  - c Meet with the legislator at the statehouse.
  - d Phone calls to the statehouse.
- 2 Contacts of little or no value.
  - a Form letters.
  - b Form emails.

### C WHEN TO MEET WITH LEGISLATORS

- 1 Don't contact your legislator only when you want action.
  - a Meet with during interim.
  - b For lunch or coffee.
  - c Get acquainted socially, if possible.
- 2 Compliment when appropriate.

### D COORDINATING YOUR CONTACT EFFORTS

- 1 Don't duplicate. Know what other members of your legislative advocate network are doing. Coordinate your efforts and divide up what needs to get done.
- 2 Send copies of your legislative correspondence to your coalition's legislative coordinator, and to the secretary. Report all contacts with legislators and what transpired.

### E FOLLOWING BILLS WITHOUT BOTHERING LEGISLATORS

Call the Colorado Senior Lobby. Alternatively: Go to [coloradoseniorlobby.org](http://coloradoseniorlobby.org). Under the heading "Get Involved" click on BILL SHEET.

## RULES FOR CONTACTING LEGISLATORS

- A **BE PRACTICAL:** Find out what can realistically be accomplished.
- B **BE AS BRIEF AND CONCISE AS POSSIBLE IN PRESENTING YOUR CASE.**
- C **LEAVE BEHIND A ONE-PAGE OUTLINE SUMMARY** of your position (also leave one with the administrative assistant).
- D **DO NOT THREATEN** with political or voter retaliation.
- F **FOLLOW UP YOUR VISIT** with a letter to the legislator.

**SAVE THE DATE**

**SATURDAY AUGUST 20 2016**

**SENIOR LOBBY  
ANNUAL SUMMER EVENT  
& BUSINESS MEETING**

**Location to be determined**

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**Colorado Senior Lobby**  
**P. O. Box 102662**  
**Denver, CO 80250-2662**

*The ultimate folly is to think that  
something crucial to your welfare is being taken  
care of for you.*  
—Robert Brault, American operatic tenor

“Healthy citizens are the  
greatest asset any  
country can have.”  
— Winston Churchill

**Go Green:**

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**Colorado Senior Lobby** — Nonprofit, non-partisan, volunteer organization

**MEMBERSHIP: Single \$30 Family \$40 Organization \$75** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Organizations: Attach three names and contact information

**Additional contribution to support our vision for seniors' quality of life** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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Circle one: **BILL ME** or **CHECK ENCLOSED** — payable Colorado Senior Lobby

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