DAVID Y. IGE

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE

P.O. BOX 150 HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150 WESLEY K. MACHIDA

LAUREL A. JOHNSTON DEPUTY DIRECTOR

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

#### **WRITTEN ONLY**

TESTIMONY BY WESLEY K. MACHIDA
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL,
AND MILITARY AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 293

February 14, 2017 1:45 p.m. Room 229

#### RELATING TO STATEWIDE INTEROPERABLE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS

Senate Bill No. 293 establishes the Statewide Interoperability Executive Board (SIEB) within the Department of Defense (DOD) to act as the primary steering group for the Hawaii statewide communications interoperability plan. The bill also creates the Statewide Interoperability Public Safety Communications Trust Fund to pay for costs and expenses associated with the SIEB through surcharges on various traffic violations.

The Department of Budget and Finance does not take any position on the creation of the SIEB; however, as a matter of general policy, the department does not support the creation of any trust fund which does not meet the specific definition of a trust fund as stipulated in Section 37-62, HRS. A trust fund is defined as one in which "designated persons or classes of persons have a vested beneficial interest or equitable ownership, or which was created or established by a gift, grant, contribution, devise or bequest that limits the use of the fund to designated objects or purposes." Further, trust funds invoke a fiduciary responsibility of State government to care for and use the assets held only for those designated to benefit from the funds.

Our department has the following concerns:

- there does not appear to be any clear nexus between the benefits sought and the traffic fine surcharges;
- 2) these surcharges on traffic fines are inordinately high (ranging from \$50 to \$1,000) and will likely not result in the revenue stream anticipated by the SIEB;
- 3) it is difficult to determine whether the proposed trust fund would actually be held by the State for the benefit of those with a vested interest in the fund's assets.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



#### Testimony by:

FORD N. FUCHIGAMI DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors JADE T. BUTAY ROSS M. HIGASHI EDWIN H. SNIFFEN DARRELL T. YOUNG

IN REPLY REFER TO:

### STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

869 PUNCHBOWL STREET HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

February 14, 2017 1:45 p.m. State Capitol, Room 229

# S.B. 293 RELATING TO STATEWIDE INTEROPERABLE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS.

Senate Committees on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs & Government Operations

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** S.B. 293. The creation of a statutorily-mandated governing board is supported by the DOT to elevate the importance of establishing the long-awaited capability of first responders from different jurisdictions being able to communicate with each other, share resources, and locate assets in emergency/disaster situations with a minimum loss of time and maximum amount of efficiency.

The importance of interoperable communications and resource sharing is made more urgent by the increasing frequency of crises that has affected the State in recent years, be it hurricanes, floods, tsunamis, or simply fiscal crises which sap strength and depth of our first responder resources. Forming the proposed governance board and appointing executive level members to it emphasizes the high priority that needs to be put in this area, especially with the imminent award of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's FirstNet contract, and the subsequent federally-mandated requirement for the State to decide on opting in to the agreement or going it alone.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

#### STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

### TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 293 A BILL RELATING TO STATEWIDE INTEROPERABLE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS

PRESENTATION TO
THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC SAFETY,
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS (PSM), AND
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (GVO)
BY

VERN T. MIYAGI, ADMINISTRATOR

Chairs Nishihara and Kim and Vice Chairs Wakai and Ruderman and Members of the Committees.

I am Vern T. Miyagi, the administrator of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency and I am testifying in **SUPPORT** of Senate Bill 293.

This measure strengthens interoperable communications through governance. A collaborative governance approach will assist in developing efficient and coordinated interoperable communications.

An efficient and coordinated interoperable communications system is critical to any successful response to and recovery from a major disaster. It will save lives.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in **SUPPORT** of Senate Bill 293

Vern T. Miyagi: vern.t.miyaqi@hawaii.gov; 808-733-4300



## STATE OF HAWAI'I OFFICE OF ENTERPRISE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HI 96810-0119 Ph: (808) 586-6000 | Fax: (808) 586-1922 ETS.HAWAII.GOV

# Testimony of TODD NACAPUY Chief Information Officer, State of Hawai'i

#### Before the

SENATE COMMITTEES ON
PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
AND
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
Tuesday, February 14, 2017; 1:45 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

## SENATE BILL NO. 293 RELATING TO STATEWIDE INTEROPERABLE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS

Chairs Nishihara and Kim, Vice Chairs Wakai and Ruderman, and Committee Members:

I am Todd Nacapuy, State Chief Information Officer (CIO), testifying in **support** of Senate Bill No. 293, Relating to Statewide Interoperable Public Safety Communications, which establishes the Statewide Interoperability Executive Board within the State Department of Defense (DoD).

Under Hawai'i Revised Statutes section 27-43, the Office of Enterprise Technology Services (ETS) headed by the CIO provides the statewide backbone infrastructure for terrestrial and radio communication for all State agencies, including those supporting public safety, emergency response, and disaster management in the DoD. As provided for in this bill, creating a governing body, establishing a funding mechanism, and designating a position in the DoD to coordinate radio communication activities among State, county and federal partners will improve how we deliver services and deploy limited resources during routine operations as well as disasters and emergencies.

ETS requests three language changes in this bill, italicized below, to: 1) properly reflect the CIO's title as stated in statute; 2) provide the CIO flexibility to appoint the most appropriate, knowledgeable designee to the Statewide Interoperability Executive Board, as needed;

(8) The chief information officer, <u>head</u> of the <u>office of</u> enterprise technology services; [provided that any designee of the chief information officer shall hold a decision-making role and shall be knowledgeable of public safety communications;]

and 3) coordinate the proposed statewide interoperability coordinator role with the CIO's existing role under HRS section 27-43, which calls for an IT governance strategic planning, monitoring, and implementing process that includes statewide communications and departmental communications infrastructure:

SECTION 3. Chapter 103D, Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

"§103D- Public safety procurements; approval of statewide interoperability coordinator and office of enterprise technology services required. Notwithstanding any of the provisions of this chapter, all procurement for construction, goods, services, and professional services relating to the construction, establishment, development, maintenance, use, or support of public safety communications infrastructure, equipment, and systems shall require the approval of the statewide interoperability coordinator and chief information officer in accordance with, and in furtherance of, the goals, objectives, and plans of the state interoperability executive board and state information technology strategic plans."

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.



### STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

919 Ala Moana Boulevard, 4th Floor Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

#### NOLAN P. ESPINDA DIRECTOR

Cathy Ross
Deputy Director
Administration

Jodie F. Maesaka-Hirata Deputy Director Corrections

Renee R. Sonobe Hong
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

# TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 293 RELATING TO STATEWIDE INTEROPERABLE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS

by
Nolan P. Espinda, Director
Department of Public Safety

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

> Senate Committee on Government Operations Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 14, 2017; 1:45 p.m. State Capitol, Conference Room 229

Chairs Nishihara and Kim, Vice Chairs Wakai and Ruderman, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) **supports** Senate Bill (SB) 293, which proposes to establish: 1) the Statewide Interoperability Executive Board within the State Department of Defense to serve as the primary steering group for public safety interoperable communications statewide, and 2) the statewide interoperable public safety communications trust fund to be financed through surcharges on traffic violations. PSD, however, recommends the passage of SB 956 as well as its companion, HB 1090.

PSD strongly believes that interoperable public safety communications for our first responders, state and county, is critical to the safety and well-being of our

Testimony on SB 293
Senate Committee on Public Safety,
Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
Senate Committee on Government Operations
February 14, 2017
Page 2

community. SB 293, as well as, SB 956 and HB 1090, propose to create a statewide coordinated governance board, which will establish policies and guidance that will help all state and county agencies achieve effective statewide interoperability.

Unlike SB 956 and HB 1090, HB 293 adds additional wording that would establish a special trust funded through surcharges on traffic violations. PSD recommends SB 956 and HB 1090, because either bill would establish the governance structure, but would allow the executive board to be established, meet, and recommend the best suggested legislation for possible funding once the governance structure is in place.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

DAVID Y. IGE GOVERNOR



SARAH ALLEN

MARA SMITH+ ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR

## STATE OF HAWAII STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

TESTIMONY
OF
SARAH ALLEN, ADMINISTRATOR
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE
ON
Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
And
Government Operations
February 14, 2017, 1:45 p.m.

SB 293
RELATING TO STATEWIDE INTEROPERABLE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS

Chairs Kim and Nishihara, Vice-Chairs Wakai and Ruderman, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB 293. The SPO agrees with the intent of the bill, however feels that Section 3, page 13 to 14 should not be included in HRS§103D:

"§103D- Public safety procurements; approval of statewide interoperability coordinator required. Notwithstanding any of the provisions of this chapter, all procurement for construction, goods, services, and professional services relating to the construction, establishment, development, maintenance, use, or support of public safety communications infrastructure, equipment, and systems shall require the approval of the statewide interoperability coordinator in accordance with, and in furtherance of, the goals, objectives, and plans of the state interoperability executive board."

The approval needed by the statewide interoperability coordinator <u>is so specific</u> that it should reside in the chapter governing "Statewide Public Safety Communications". The Code should be kept streamlined, rather than be diluted and used as a receptacle for all department's specific approval procurement requirements.

Thank you.

#### Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.

Mayor



Elton S. Ushio
Emergency Management
Administrator

#### Wallace G. Rezentes, Jr.

Managing Director

#### KAUA'I EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

3990 Kaana St., Suite 100, Līhu'e, Hawai'i 96766 TEL (808) 241-1800 FAX (808) 241-1860

February 13, 2017

The Honorable Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair, Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair and Members, Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs;

The Honorable Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair, Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair and Members, Committee on Government Operations

State Senate 415 South Beretania Street Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON S.B. 293 RELATING TO STATEWIDE INTEROPERABLE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS

Chairs Nishihara and Kim, Vice Chairs Wakai and Ruderman, and Committee Members:

I am Elton Ushio, Administrator of the Kaua'i Emergency Management Agency (KEMA). KEMA supports the intent of S.B. 293, but would like the committees to note that we have concerns regarding the following items:

- 1. The proposed composition of the statewide interoperability executive board, per Part II(b), is inconsistent with the fact that the vast majority of governmental public safety first-responder entities and personnel are at the city/county level. As such, I recommend that you consider modification of board composition to reduce the number of non-county non-first responder entities, as this will help to ensure fair and equitable representation that is commensurate to the balance of state and county boots-on-the-ground public safety interoperable communications stakeholders.
- 2. Regarding the Statewide interoperable public safety communications trust fund Part(c)(3), a fair and equitable interstate funding formula should be utilized here to ensure distribution of supplemental sums to state and county public safety entities.

Here, a reasonable distribution could be based on the 80%/20% split currently in use by the State Department of Defense relating to the distribution of Homeland Security Grant funding. 20% would be the State's cap, while 80% would go to the counties.

This would be in alignment with the reason cited in item 1 above, along with the fact that county-level law enforcement and prosecution will be instrumental to the proposed funding mechanism - Traffic-offense surcharges.

Testimony of the Kaua'i Emergency Management Agency S.B. 293, Twenty-Ninth Legislature, 2017 Page 2 of 2

3. KEMA and the County of Kaua'i strongly oppose the following language relating to proposed H.R.S. §103D modification, and we request that this be removed:

"§ 103D - Public safety procurements; approval of statewide interoperability coordinator required.

Notwithstanding any of the provisions of this chapter, all procurement for construction, goods, services, and professional services relating to the construction, establishment, development, maintenance, use, or support of public safety communications infrastructure, equipment, and systems shall require the approval of the statewide interoperability coordinator in accordance with, and in furtherance of, the goals, objectives, and plans of the state interoperability executive board."

This language adversely affects the authority and home-rule vested in each County, the Mayors, County Chief Procurement Officers, along with our respective public safety entities.

Finally, KEMA would like your committees to note that a similar measure, S.B. 956, has been submitted as part of the Governor's package. S.B. 956 omits the portions relating to our 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> areas of concern noted above.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Elton S. Ushio

**Emergency Management Administrator** 

# DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

650 SOUTH KING STREET, BASEMENT • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813 PHONE: (808) 768-8960 • FAX: (808) 523-3439 • WEB: www.honolulu.gov

KIRK CALDWELL



DIRECTOR
PETER HIRAI
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

MELVIN N. KAKU

February 13, 2017

The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs State Senate State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street, Room 229 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members:

### SUBJECT: S.B. 293 RELATING TO THE STATEWIDE INEROPERABLE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS

I am Melvin Kaku, Director of the Department of Emergency Management (DEM), City and County of Honolulu.

DEM supports the intent of S.B. 293 which establishes the Statewide Interoperability Executive Board within the State Department of Defense to serve as the primary steering group for public safety interoperable communications statewide, but with amendments.

Part II (b) provides a list of members or member's designee appointed to the primary steering committee allowing the State to hold eight (8) voting members and each county to hold one (1), for a total of four (4) votes, which could favor the outcome to the State. DEM recommends that the State amend S.B. 293 to allow one (1) voting member for State and one (1) voting member for each county.

DEM is opposed to adding the proposed "Section 103D – Public safety procurements; approval of statewide interoperability coordinator required .....all procurement for construction, goods, services, and professional services relating to the construction, establishment, development, maintenance, use, or support of public communications infrastructure, equipment, and systems shall require the approval of the statewide interoperability coordinator......executive board." This would be an infringement of "home rule" providing that the County's project is consistent with the goals and objectives of the State's Interoperable Communications Plan.

The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair February 13, 2017 Page 2

DEM further recommends that any traffic related violation surcharges or fees imposed under S.B. 293 be deposited into each County's Law Enforcement agency to off-set current operating expenses.

I urge your committee to consider the amendments above. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely

Melvin N. Kaku

Director

cc: Roy K. Amemiya, Jr., Managing Director



ALAN M. ARAKAWA

MAYOR

### POLICE DEPARTMENT

**COUNTY OF MAUI** 

TIVOLI S. FAAUMU CHIEF OF POLICE

OUR REFERENCE
YOUR REFERENCE

55 MAHALANI STREET WAILUKU, HAWAII 96793 (808) 244-6400 FAX (808) 244-6411

DEAN M. RICKARD
DEPUTY CHIEF OF POLICE

February 14, 2017

The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair And Members of the Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
The Honorable Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair
And Members of the Committee on Government Operations

The Senate State Capitol Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Senate Bill No. 293, RELATING TO STATEWIDE INTEROPERABLE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS

Dear Chair Nishihara, Chair Kim, and Members of the Committees:

The Maui Police Department fully supports S.B. No. 293.

In times of major crises, communications are not as fluid between responding agencies when first assigned, during, and after the initial call. The executive board working in collaboration with all levels of government would set statewide policy for statewide interoperable public safety communication. Protecting the public requires close coordination among all levels of government, as well as with the private sector. With statewide interoperable public safety communications, this will bring us closer to our goal.

We ask for your support of Senate Bill No. 293. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

TIVOLI S. FAAUMU

Chief of Police

#### LEGISLATIVE TAX BILL SERVICE

# TAX FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

126 Queen Street, Suite 304

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Tel. 536-4587

SUBJECT: MISCELLANEOUS, Statewide Interoperability Fund Surcharge on Traffic Tickets

BILL NUMBER: SB 293; HB 203 (Identical)

INTRODUCED BY: SB by BAKER, NISHIHARA; HB by Souki by request

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Establishes an statewide interoperable public safety program and funds it with surcharges on traffic tickets. This is a tax increase and should be recognized as such. In addition, there is a serious question about whether it comports with constitutional equal protection requirements.

SYNOPSIS: Adds a new part to HRS chapter 128A to establish a statewide public safety communications interoperability function, attached to the department of defense. It would be tasked with making sure the communications systems of the various law enforcement and public safety agencies of city, state, and federal government can talk to each other. It would be headed by a board, and would have a trust fund all its own. The money in the fund could be spent on:

- (1) Expenses arising in connection with the state interoperability executive board for meetings;
- (2) Travel and other reasonable and necessary expenses incurred by members in carrying out their duties relating to the board; and (3) Payment of supplemental sums to state and county public safety agencies for communications equipment, projects, infrastructure, and training consistent with, in accordance with, and in furtherance of, the goals, objectives, and plans of the board.

Amends various HRS sections to establish surcharges for traffic offenses as follows:

| Surcharge  | Offense   | HRS Section       |
|--|---|-------------------|
| \$500  | Reckless driving or riding of animals   | 291-2             |
| \$1,000  | Consuming or possessing intoxicating liquor while operating motor vehicle                                     | 291-3.1           |
| \$250  | Consuming or possessing intoxicating liquor while a passenger in a motor vehicle                              | 291-3.2           |
| \$100  | Open liquor container in a motor vehicle or consuming liquor at a scenic lookout                              | 291-3.3           |
| \$250 (\$1,000 for second offense within five years) | Driving after license suspended or denied for noncompliance with an order of support                          | 291-4.6           |
| \$100  | Carrying freight in a motor vehicle either projecting beyond the width of the vehicle or beyond running board | 291-8 or<br>291-9 |
| \$100  | Riders and passengers under seven years of age on motorcycles and motor scooters                              | 291-11            |

| Surcharge      | Offense   | HRS Section |
|----------------|---|-------------|
| \$50 (\$100    | Child passenger restraints                                    | 291-11.5    |
| second         |   |             |
| offense, \$200 |   |             |
| third or       |   |             |
| more)          |   |             |
| \$100          | Inattention to driving  | 291-12      |
| \$50           | Passenger in pickup truck bed                                 | 291-14      |
| \$1,000        | Mobile electronic device while driving commercial vehicle     | 291-17      |
| \$500          | Hit and run where accident involves death or serious injury   | 291C-12     |
| \$250          | Hit and run where accident involves substantial bodily injury | 291C-12.5   |
| \$100          | Hit and run where accident involves bodily injury             | 291C-12.6   |
| \$100          | Hit and run where accident involves property damage           | 291C-13     |
| \$100          | Failure to give information and render aid                    | 291C-14     |
| \$100          | Failure to report striking unattended vehicle or other        | 291C-15     |
| 4100           | property  |             |
| \$100          | Failure to notify police of accident                          | 291C-16     |
| \$150 (\$300   | Failure to yield to pedestrian in crosswalk                   | 291C-72     |
| 2nd offense,   |   |             |
| \$1,000 third  |   |             |
| or more)       |   | 2010 72     |
| \$100          | Jaywalking  | 291C-73     |
| \$500          | Overtaking and passing school bus                             | 291C-95     |
| \$10           | Speeding (or driving slower than minimum)                     | 291C-102    |
| \$100          | Racing on highways  | 291C-103    |
| \$100          | Applying wheel boot   | 291C-115    |
| \$200 (\$300   | Other traffic violations in chapter 291C for which a specific | 291C-161(b) |
| 2nd offense,   | penalty is not provided                                       |             |
| \$500 third or |   |             |
| more)          |   |             |
| \$200 (\$300   | Hit and run where accident involves property damage (291C-    | 291C-161(d) |
| 2nd offense,   | 13) or false report to authorities (291C-18)                  |             |
| \$500 third or |   |             |
| more)          |   |             |

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2017.

STAFF COMMENTS: In *State v. Medeiros*, 89 Hawai'i 361, 973 P.2d 736 (1999), the Hawaii Supreme Court analyzed a Honolulu ordinance that imposed a "service fee" on persons convicted of certain crimes. The City had adopted the ordinance because it expended law enforcement resources to get those convictions and thought that it should be able to recoup its costs from the convicted criminals. Our supreme court adopted a test for determining whether such a fee was in fact a tax. The test asked "whether the charge (1) applies to the direct beneficiary of a particular service, (2) is allocated directly to defraying the costs of providing the service, and (3) is reasonably proportionate to the benefit received." The court found that the

"service fee" flunked parts (1) of the test because the "service" of being investigated and prosecuted "clearly does not 'benefit' the payors of the charge, *i.e.*, the persons convicted as a result of the work of the police and the prosecutors; rather, it benefits society at large." The court concluded that the "service fee" was actually a tax, and declared the ordinance imposing it invalid because the City did not have power to impose this tax.

Here, for similar reasons, the surcharge that is used to feed the statewide interoperable public safety communications trust fund fails part (1) of the *Medeiros* test, and is a new tax.

Our constitution requires equal protection of those who would be burdened by a government tax or fee. In *Hasegawa v. Maui Pineapple Co.*, 52 Hawai'i 327, 415 P.2d 679 (I970), the Hawai'i Supreme Court analyzed a law requiring private employers with more than 25 employees to continue to pay the wages of employees who were selected for public service, such as for jury duty, public boards, and public commissions. Our supreme court then found that the law violated our constitution's equal protection clause because it created a "class distinction" between private employers to pay for state functions to benefit the general public. "The cost of a proper state function conducted for the public benefit cannot be arbitrarily charged to one class in the society," the court said. Here, the surcharge is on those convicted of certain traffic offenses. What about those convicted of assault, mayhem, or terroristic threatening? Don't we use interoperable public safety communications systems to bring those offenders down as well?

The ideas in this bill are certainly creative, but are problematic.

Digested 2/12/2017