HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Prohibits the State Patrol from closing any of its current public safety answering points ("PSAP") before August 1, 2012. Requires a report to the legislature on the State Patrol's plan to consolidate its PSAPS.

Background

PSAPs answer 911 calls and non-emergency calls 24 hours a day with the purpose of dispatching state patrol services. State Patrol PSAPS outside of the metro area also dispatch DNR officers and MNDoT vehicles, such as plows.

The state patrol is in the process of implementing a PSAP consolidation plan that would reduce the number of PSAPs operated by the State Patrol from 10 to 3. Current centers are located in Brainerd, Detroit Lakes, Duluth, Mankato, Marshall, Rochester, Roseville, St. Cloud, Thief River Falls, and Virginia. The three regional PSAPs would be located in Roseville, Rochester, and Duluth. Roseville is currently the home of the metro area regional PSAP which was created in 1993 through the consolidation of the East and West metro PSAPs. The next step in the consolidation is for the southern PSAPS to be consolidated in Rochester. The northern and central PSAPs will be consolidated in Duluth after Rochester's regional PSAP comes on line.

PSAP consolidation has been a legislative topic of study since at least 2003 when the legislature mandated a study and report on the consolidation of PSAPs in the state. Laws 2003, 1st spec. sess. ch. 1, art. 1, § 29. Governor Pawlenty issued an executive order creating a work group on regional PSAPs in January 2009. The current consolidation plan stems, in part, from Governor Pawlenty's work group.