



Senator Alan Olsen

Oregon State Capitol
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Olsen bill would protect public safety funds

Salem, OR – Senator Alan Olsen (R-Canby) has introduced a bill to protect funding for 9-1-1 services. Senate Bill 597 would prevent the legislature from siphoning money from 9-1-1 accounts to pay for other services.

“9-1-1 operators link individuals and families that are in trouble with life-saving services,” said Olsen. “I am hard pressed to think of a more important or vital government service. Local emergency services should not have their funding streams used as slush funds for the legislature’s pet projects.”

Senate Bill 597 protects the Emergency Communication Account, the funding mechanism for 9-1-1 services, and its subaccounts from what are commonly called legislative “sweeps.” A sweep takes dedicated funds intended for a specific service and redirects them for other operations. The bill allows for sweeps only in the case of a fiscal emergency, defined as a budgetary shortfall of 12% or more.

9-1-1 funds have been a favorite target of sweeps. The Emergency Communication account is funded by a tax of \$0.75 per month on phone lines.

Olsen and his wife Juanita make their home in Canby. Olsen is a veteran of the United States Army, serving from 1969 to 1971. He is a general contractor and small business owner building homes and structures across Oregon. Senate District 20 includes Canby, Oregon City, Damascus, Estacada and rural parts of Clackamas County.

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