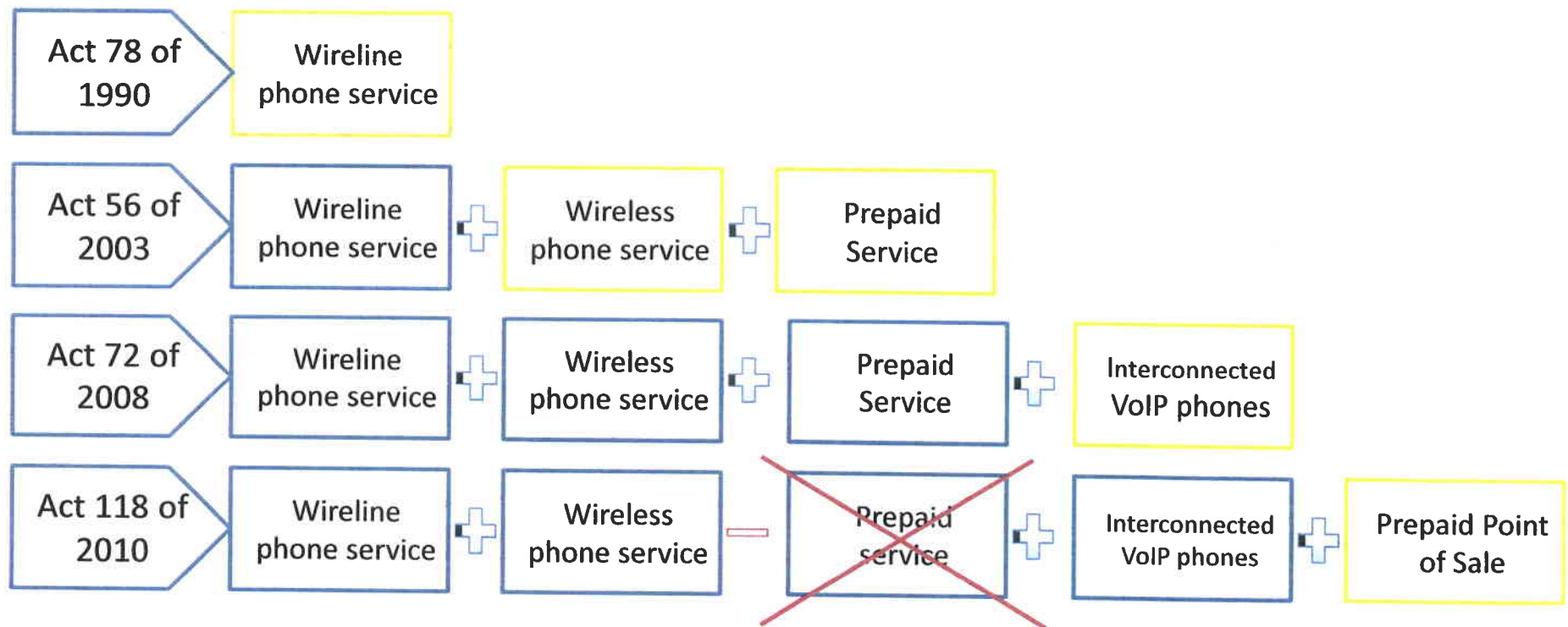




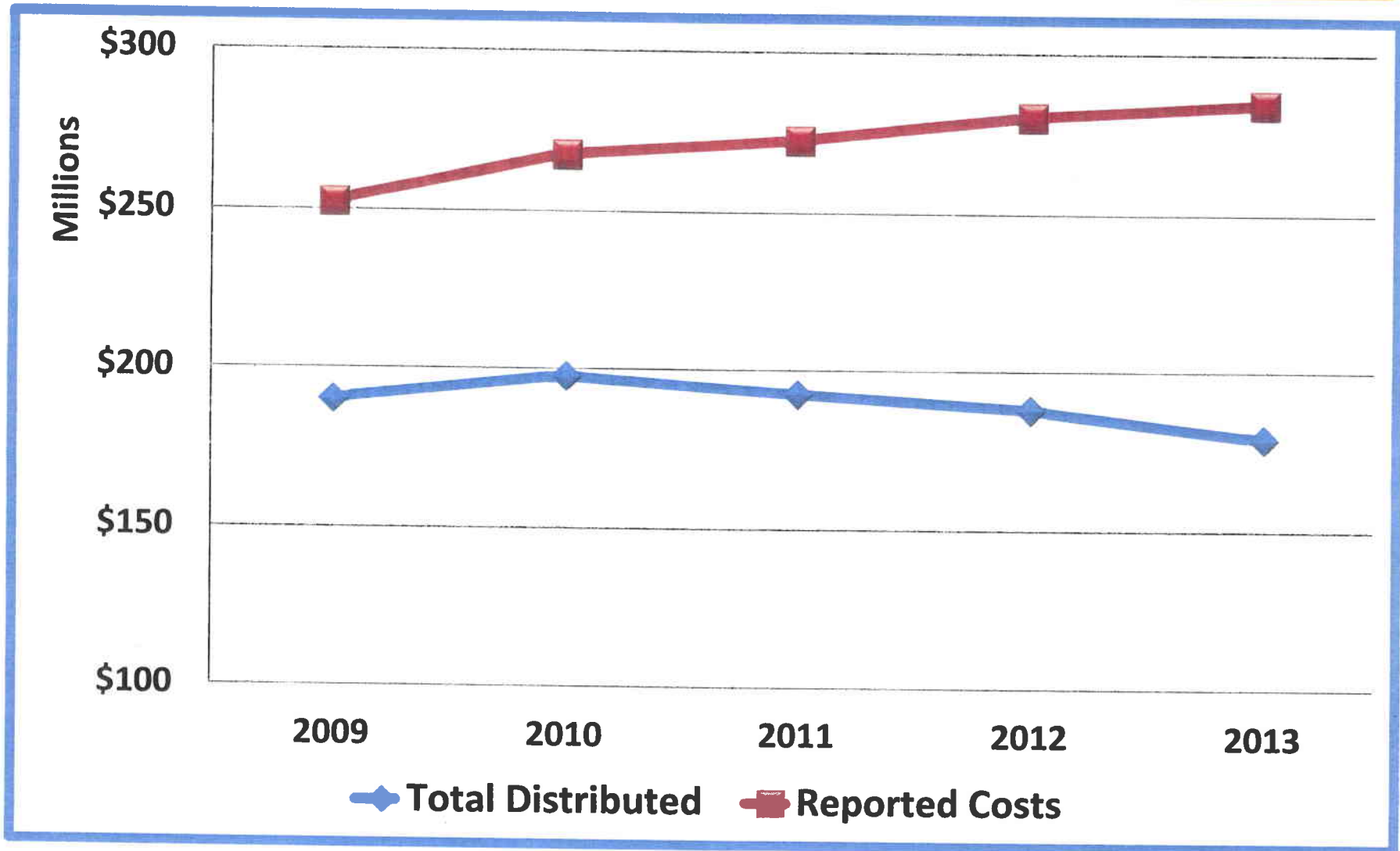
The Commonwealth 911 Public Safety Communication System

History of 911 Legislation

- Act 78 imposed fees ranging from \$1.00 to \$1.50 on wireline
- Acts 56, 72, and 118 imposed \$1.00 fee on wireless (both prepaid and postpaid) and voice over internet protocol
- The current law will sunset on June 30, 2015



911 Funding



2012 LBFC Report

- In May of 2012, the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee published its report on Pennsylvania's 911 system.
- The report made 16 recommendations for consideration to address Pennsylvania's 911 funding, expenditures, challenges, and opportunities.

National Programmatic Goals

- “The primary long-term goal for migrating to IP-enabled emergency networks is to allow the general public to make a 9-1-1 ‘call’ from any communication device in any mode (e.g., voice, text, or video) and potentially to furnish additional incident information.”
 - The National E9-1-1 Implementation Coordination Office
- “To ensure that everyone has access to emergency services anytime, anywhere, from any device.”
 - National Emergency Number Association

National Trends

- Comprehensive statewide approach to 911
- Advancement of communication technology
- Changing consumer usage habits
- Implementation of Next Generation 911 is becoming more prevalent

Considerations

- Revenue generation
- Form of the fee
- Duties of the 911 board
- Role of the state in 911

Revenue Generation

- Options to generate revenue:
 - 1) Increase the fee on current devices.
 - \$1.25 fee collects approximately \$247 million
 - \$1.50 fee collects approximately \$297 million
 - \$1.75 fee collects approximately \$346 million
 - \$2.00 fee collects approximately \$396 million
 - 2) Chase additional devices to pull into the system, with or without a fee increase
 - Past method used by Pennsylvania in 1990, 2003, 2008, 2010.
 - 3) Become technology neutral by assessing a fee on any service that accesses 911.
 - Devices become immaterial because this option captures what enables the ability to contact 911: the service
 - This system aligns with Next Generation 911
 - 4) Other options?
 - County based assessments
 - Dedicated appropriation
 - Point-of-Sale assessments

Form of the Fee

- Options for the form of the fee:
 - 1) Flat dollar amount
 - Static
 - Maintains current assessment method
 - 2) Percentage rate
 - Inherent inflation escalator
 - Adaptable to consumer habits
- Any revenue target amount can be achieved by either option.

Distribution of the Fund

- Options for distribution of the fund
 - 1) Static formula in statute
 - Not adaptable to changing circumstances (regional events in particular year)
 - 2) Fund segmentation in statute

Example:

 - 5% of fund disbursed among the counties equally
 - 70% of fund disbursed among the counties through a mathematical formula devised by the agency and the counties
 - 15% of fund disbursed for regional initiatives that will improve 911 services in the commonwealth
 - Up to 10% of the fund to pay for county costs to establish, enhance, operate, or maintain statewide interconnectivity of county and regional 911 systems.
- Other options?

911 Board

- Advisory board or authority to make policy?
- What should be the counties' role?
- What should be the state's role?

Summary

- A comprehensive communications system that improves 911 services will strengthen public safety in the commonwealth.
- The transition to internet protocol communication networks is underway throughout the country.
- Changes to the 911 system in Pennsylvania are desired by all stakeholders.
- Options for improvement exist and challenges remain, but collaboration is the path to success.