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HOUSE BILL 1875

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State of Washington

56th Legislature

1999 Regular Session

By Representatives D. Schmidt, Miloscia and Romero; by request of  
Military Department

Read first time 02/09/1999. Referred to Committee on State Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to providing for the adjutant general to establish  
2 rules concerning the accuracy of location information derived from  
3 enhanced 911 telephone systems; amending RCW 43.43.934; adding a new  
4 section to chapter 38.52 RCW; and creating a new section.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the citizens of  
7 the state increasingly rely on the dependability of enhanced 911, a  
8 system that allows the person answering an emergency call to determine  
9 the location of the emergency immediately without the caller needing to  
10 speak. The legislature further finds that the degree of accuracy of  
11 the displayed information must be adequate to permit rapid location of  
12 the caller while taking into consideration variables specific to local  
13 conditions. The legislature further finds that it is appropriate that  
14 rules permitting local fire agencies to evaluate and approve the  
15 accuracy of location information relating to their service areas be  
16 adopted.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 38.52 RCW  
18 to read as follows:

1       The adjutant general shall establish rules on minimum information  
2 requirements of automatic location identification for the purposes of  
3 enhanced 911 emergency service. Such rules shall permit the chief of  
4 a local fire department or a chief fire protection officer or such  
5 other person as may be designated by the governing body of a city or  
6 county to take into consideration local circumstances when approving  
7 the accuracy of location information generated when calls are made to  
8 911 from facilities within his or her service area.

9       **Sec. 3.** RCW 43.43.934 and 1998 c 245 s 65 are each amended to read  
10 as follows:

11       Except for matters relating to the statutory duties of the chief of  
12 the Washington state patrol that are to be carried out through the  
13 director of fire protection, the board shall have the responsibility of  
14 developing a comprehensive state policy regarding fire protection  
15 services. In carrying out its duties, the board shall:

16       (1)(a) Adopt a state fire training and education master plan that  
17 allows to the maximum feasible extent for negotiated agreements: (i)  
18 With the state board for community and technical colleges to provide  
19 academic, vocational, and field training programs for the fire service  
20 and (ii) with the higher education coordinating board and the state  
21 colleges and universities to provide instructional programs requiring  
22 advanced training, especially in command and management skills;

23       (b) Adopt minimum standards for each level of responsibility among  
24 personnel with fire suppression, prevention, inspection, and  
25 investigation responsibilities that assure continuing assessment of  
26 skills and are flexible enough to meet emerging technologies. With  
27 particular respect to training for fire investigations, the master plan  
28 shall encourage cross training in appropriate law enforcement skills.  
29 To meet special local needs, fire agencies may adopt more stringent  
30 requirements than those adopted by the state;

31       (c) Cooperate with the common schools, technical and community  
32 colleges, institutions of higher education, and any department or  
33 division of the state, or of any county or municipal corporation in  
34 establishing and maintaining instruction in fire service training and  
35 education in accordance with any act of congress and legislation  
36 enacted by the legislature in pursuance thereof and in establishing,  
37 building, and operating training and education facilities.

1 Industrial fire departments and private fire investigators may  
2 participate in training and education programs under this chapter for  
3 a reasonable fee established by rule;

4 (d) Develop and adopt a master plan for constructing, equipping,  
5 maintaining, and operating necessary fire service training and  
6 education facilities subject to the provisions of chapter 43.19 RCW;  
7 and

8 (e) Develop and adopt a master plan for the purchase, lease, or  
9 other acquisition of real estate necessary for fire service training  
10 and education facilities in a manner provided by law.

11 (2) In addition to its responsibilities for fire service training,  
12 the board shall:

13 (a) Adopt a state fire protection master plan;

14 (b) Monitor fire protection in the state and develop objectives and  
15 priorities to improve fire protection for the state's citizens  
16 including: (i) The comprehensiveness of state and local inspections  
17 required by law for fire and life safety; (ii) the level of skills and  
18 training of inspectors, as well as needs for additional training; and  
19 (iii) the efforts of local, regional, and state inspection agencies to  
20 improve coordination and reduce duplication among inspection efforts;

21 (c) Establish and promote state arson control programs and ensure  
22 development of local arson control programs;

23 (d) Provide representation for local fire protection services to  
24 the governor in state-level fire protection planning matters such as,  
25 but not limited to, hazardous materials control;

26 (e) Recommend to the (~~director of community, trade, and economic~~  
27 ~~development~~) adjutant general rules on minimum information  
28 requirements of automatic location identification for the purposes of  
29 enhanced 911 emergency service;

30 (f) Seek and solicit grants, gifts, bequests, devises, and matching  
31 funds for use in furthering the objectives and duties of the board, and  
32 establish procedures for administering them;

33 (g) Promote mutual aid and disaster planning for fire services in  
34 this state;

35 (h) Assure the dissemination of information concerning the amount  
36 of fire damage including that damage caused by arson, and its causes  
37 and prevention; and

38 (i) Implement any legislation enacted by the legislature to meet  
39 the requirements of any acts of congress that apply to this section.

1 (3) In carrying out its statutory duties, the board shall give  
2 particular consideration to the appropriate roles to be played by the  
3 state and by local jurisdictions with fire protection responsibilities.  
4 Any determinations on the division of responsibility shall be made in  
5 consultation with local fire officials and their representatives.

6 To the extent possible, the board shall encourage development of  
7 regional units along compatible geographic, population, economic, and  
8 fire risk dimensions. Such regional units may serve to: (a) Reinforce  
9 coordination among state and local activities in fire service training,  
10 reporting, inspections, and investigations; (b) identify areas of  
11 special need, particularly in smaller jurisdictions with inadequate  
12 resources; (c) assist the state in its oversight responsibilities; (d)  
13 identify funding needs and options at both the state and local levels;  
14 and (e) provide models for building local capacity in fire protection  
15 programs.

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