
SENATE BILL 6448

State of Washington 57th Legislature

2002 Regular Session

By Senators Kastama, Shin and Jacobsen

Read first time 01/17/2002. Referred to Committee on Economic Development & Telecommunications.

1 AN ACT Relating to the establishment of a statewide all-hazards
2 public warning system requiring all public facilities to use tone alert
3 weather radios; adding a new section to chapter 70.54 RCW; creating a
4 new section; and making an appropriation.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature makes the following
7 findings:

8 (1) Washington state is at significant risk to damages caused by
9 humans and natural disasters;

10 (2) Here in the state of Washington there exists no other statewide
11 warning system other than the emergency alert system to warn the public
12 of terrorist incidents, other human-caused emergencies, or natural
13 disasters;

14 (3) Tone alert weather radios are available for purchase by the
15 general public at minimal cost;

16 (4) The technology exists for a partnership of government agencies
17 at the federal, state, and local levels, working in cooperation with
18 other public and private agencies to provide a low cost system for
19 providing warning; and

1 (5) It is the duty of government to provide adequate warning to its
2 citizenry.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 70.54 RCW
4 to read as follows:

5 (1) The emergency management division of the state military
6 department, will provide, with funding from this act, and in
7 coordination with other federal and state agencies, a communications
8 infrastructure that provides for activation of the emergency alert
9 system at state and county levels.

10 (2) Public and private facilities must have installed, routinely
11 test, and have in operation tone alert weather radios that can be used
12 to warn employees, residents, or patrons of ongoing terrorist attacks,
13 hazardous materials spills, volcanic eruptions, impending storms, or
14 other emergency information.

15 (3) For purposes of this section, "public and private facilities"
16 includes buildings that may have a population of one hundred or more
17 people at any time during the day. Examples of these facilities
18 include schools, other government buildings, office buildings,
19 theaters, manufacturing facilities, restaurants, and shopping malls.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The sum of five hundred thousand dollars, or
21 as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal
22 year ending June 30, 2003, from the general fund to the emergency
23 management division of the military department for the purposes of this
24 act.

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