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HOUSE BILL 1271

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State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By Representatives Anderson, Morris and Wood

Read first time 01/22/2003. Referred to Committee on Technology,  
Telecommunications & Energy.

1 AN ACT Relating to enhancing interoperability of the state's  
2 emergency communication systems; adding new sections to chapter 38.52  
3 RCW; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 38.52 RCW  
6 to read as follows:

7 (1) The strategic interoperability executive committee is created  
8 within the state military department. The department is responsible  
9 for the planning, development, management, maintenance, accountability,  
10 and performance of the state's emergency communication systems. The  
11 director of the military department and the director of the department  
12 of information services shall be co-chairs of the committee. The  
13 membership of the committee must include, but not be limited to,  
14 representatives of state government, city and county governments,  
15 sheriffs and police chiefs, the Washington state patrol, the military  
16 department, state and local fire chiefs, and state and local emergency  
17 management directors.

18 (2) The strategic interoperability executive committee is  
19 responsible for emergency communication system assets and the acquiring

1 and allocation of emergency communication frequencies to insure the  
2 interoperability of all emergency communications systems within the  
3 state.

4 (3) The legislative accountability and evaluation program will  
5 inventory and evaluate all state and local government-owned emergency  
6 communication systems. The joint legislative audit and review  
7 committee will work in conjunction with the legislative accountability  
8 and evaluation program committee in researching and developing  
9 alternatives that will result in a statewide emergency communications  
10 plan to be jointly presented to the Washington state legislature. An  
11 interim report will be presented on or before January 31, 2004, with  
12 the final plan being presented on or before January 31, 2005. Due to  
13 changes forthcoming from the Federal Communication Commission, the plan  
14 must include two strategic components: (a) A short-term plan to insure  
15 that emergency communication agencies can communicate with each other  
16 in the immediate future and that decisions will be short-term or will  
17 be in support of future Federal Communication Commission decisions and  
18 frequency allocations; and (b) a long-term strategic emergency  
19 communications interoperability plan to insure that all emergency  
20 communication agencies can communicate with each other once the future  
21 Federal Communication Commission decisions and frequency allocations  
22 are implemented. The statewide emergency communications strategic plan  
23 will be used by the strategic interoperability committee in the  
24 allocation of frequencies, planning, development, management,  
25 maintenance, accountability, and performance of the state's emergency  
26 communication systems. Existing state systems will be evaluated and  
27 existing systems, along with the associated current funding sources  
28 that can be used in the new statewide emergency communication system,  
29 will be transferred to the department on a date that is a reasonable  
30 time frame as specified in the statewide interoperability strategic  
31 plan. During the 2003-05 biennium, funding for the review of existing  
32 systems and the development of the statewide interoperability  
33 communications plan will be transferred from the enhanced 911 account  
34 under RCW 38.52.540 to the strategic interoperability emergency  
35 communications account created in section 2 of this act.

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

1       The strategic interoperability emergency communications account is  
2       created in the state treasury. All receipts for emergency  
3       communication systems from homeland security, new state-provided  
4       funding, and existing state agency emergency communication funding must  
5       be deposited in the account. Moneys in the account may be spent only  
6       after appropriation. Expenditures from the account may be used for the  
7       review of the existing systems, development of the statewide strategic  
8       interoperability plan, and the future planning, development,  
9       management, maintenance, accountability, and performance of the state's  
10      emergency communication systems.

11      NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
12      preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the  
13      state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect  
14      July 1, 2003.

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