
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6431

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2006 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Government Operations & Elections (originally sponsored by Senators Kastama, Roach, Kline and Benton)

READ FIRST TIME 01/25/06.

1 AN ACT Relating to the state interoperability executive committee;
2 amending RCW 43.105.330; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that local governments
5 need to have interoperable communications to ensure the public safety
6 and welfare of all citizens in the state of Washington. In light of
7 recent catastrophic events around the world, including in the United
8 States, it is now more important than ever that all responders be able
9 to communicate clearly and without interference or malfunction.

10 The legislature has learned that numerous states, the federal
11 government, and some international governments have adopted the
12 project-25 standard for interoperable communications. Local
13 governments in Washington have started to purchase the project-25
14 interoperable communication standard equipment. In order to ensure
15 that local governments continue to make smart purchasing decisions,
16 they need certainty that the purchases will be interoperable with state
17 equipment and that the state will adopt the national project-25
18 standards. It is the intent of this act to provide certainty to local
19 governments that a statewide project-25 interoperable communications

1 system will be in place throughout Washington in the near future, and
2 the investments they are making are advantageous to the original intent
3 of interoperable communications, thus ensuring the safety and welfare
4 of Washington's citizens.

5 **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.105.330 and 2003 c 18 s 4 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 (1) The board shall appoint a state interoperability executive
8 committee, the membership of which must include, but not be limited to,
9 representatives of the military department, the Washington state
10 patrol, the department of transportation, the department of information
11 services, the department of natural resources, city and county
12 governments, state and local fire chiefs, police chiefs, and sheriffs,
13 and state and local emergency management directors. The chair and
14 legislative members of the board will serve as nonvoting ex officio
15 members of the committee. Voting membership may not exceed fifteen
16 members.

17 (2) The chair of the board shall appoint the chair of the committee
18 from among the voting members of the committee.

19 (3) The (~~strategic~~[state]) state interoperability executive
20 committee has the following responsibilities:

21 (a) Develop policies and make recommendations to the board for
22 technical standards for state wireless radio communications systems,
23 including emergency communications systems. The standards must
24 address, among other things, the interoperability of systems, taking
25 into account both existing and future systems and technologies;

26 (b) Coordinate and manage on behalf of the board the licensing and
27 use of state-designated and state-licensed radio frequencies, including
28 the spectrum used for public safety and emergency communications, and
29 serve as the point of contact with the federal communications
30 commission on matters relating to allocation, use, and licensing of
31 radio spectrum;

32 (c) Coordinate the purchasing of all state wireless radio
33 communications system equipment to ensure that:

34 (i) After the transition from a radio over internet protocol
35 network, any new trunked system shall be, at a minimum, project-25;

36 (ii) Any new system that requires advanced digital features shall
37 be, at a minimum, project-25; and

1 (iii) Any new system or equipment purchases shall be, at a minimum,
2 upgradeable to project-25;

3 (d) Seek support, including possible federal or other funding, for
4 state-sponsored wireless communications systems;

5 ~~((d))~~ (e) Develop recommendations for legislation that may be
6 required to promote interoperability of state wireless communications
7 systems;

8 ~~((e))~~ (f) Foster cooperation and coordination among public safety
9 and emergency response organizations;

10 ~~((f))~~ (g) Work with wireless communications groups and
11 associations to ensure interoperability among all public safety and
12 emergency response wireless communications systems; and

13 ~~((g))~~ (h) Perform such other duties as may be assigned by the
14 board to promote interoperability of wireless communications systems.

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