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SENATE BILL 6431

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State of Washington                      59th Legislature                      2006 Regular Session

By Senators Kastama, Roach, Kline and Benton

Read first time 01/12/2006.      Referred to Committee on Government Operations & Elections.

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

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

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

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

1 governments that a statewide project-25 interoperable communications  
2 system will be in place throughout Washington in the near future, and  
3 the investments they are making are advantageous to the original intent  
4 of interoperable communications, thus ensuring the safety and welfare  
5 of Washington's citizens.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

35 (i) Any new trunked system shall be project-25 standard compatible  
36 or upgradeable;

1        (ii) Any new system that requires advanced digital features shall  
2 be project-25 standard compatible or upgradeable; and

3        (iii) Any new system or equipment purchases shall be upgradeable to  
4 project-25 standards;

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

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

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

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

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

17       NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. This act is necessary for the immediate  
18 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the  
19 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect  
20 immediately.

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