
SENATE BILL 6477

State of Washington 59th Legislature 2006 Regular Session

By Senators Roach, Benson, Stevens, Benton, Johnson, Esser and Honeyford

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

1 AN ACT Relating to volunteer amateur radio emergency
2 communications; creating a new section; and making an appropriation.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The preparedness of our emergency systems in
5 advance of the need to deploy them is crucial to our capabilities as a
6 state to assume a heightened awareness of potential threats and to
7 respond to actual attack or natural disaster. While the Washington
8 state emergency management council is performing a strategic assessment
9 of the ability of local and tribal emergency management organizations
10 to effectively provide for all phases of comprehensive emergency
11 management, the legislature acknowledges that the interface between the
12 governmental sector and the private sector is essential to a prepared
13 citizenry. On the front line of this interface, especially in times of
14 emergency, are the amateur (ham) radio operators in our state.

15 To further the public purpose of encouraging the expansion of the
16 ham radio network, a work group shall be convened. The work group
17 shall consist of six members, appointed as follows: Three members of
18 the public representing the ham radio community, two appointed by the
19 chair of the senate committee on government operations and elections

1 and one appointed by the ranking minority member thereof; and three
2 members appointed by the adjutant general to include one representative
3 of the interests of urban planning, one representative of the interests
4 of rural planning, and one representative of the state emergency
5 management department.

6 The work group shall submit a written report to the governor and to
7 the appropriate standing committees of the legislature by December 1,
8 2006. The report shall include, but not be limited to, recommendations
9 for regulating ham radio antenna heights in urban areas; for a
10 credential to indicate that the person holding it is a trained and
11 qualified emergency worker within the context of chapter 38.52 RCW; and
12 for encouraging the expansion of the ham radio network so that ideally
13 there are no inhabited areas of the state without communication links
14 for use in emergencies.

15 Subject to available funds, the work group shall be staffed by the
16 military department.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The sum of five hundred dollars, or as much
18 thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year ending
19 June 30, 2007, from the general fund to the military department for the
20 purposes of reimbursing the expenses of participating in and attending
21 meetings of the work group that are incurred by the private citizens
22 serving as representatives of the ham radio community, to whom no other
23 compensation is provided.

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