

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
78R13338 KEG-F

H.B. 2650
By: Kuempel (Armbrister)
Infrastructure Development and Security
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Engrossed

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Texas' public safety and emergency response teams are equipped with radio communication systems that operate on different frequencies, which can hinder communications during an emergency. The mandate and authority to develop an integrated system has been in place since 1999, but the Interagency Radio Work Group assigned to carry out the task has been unable to reach a consensus. H.B. 2650 creates a Public Safety Radio Communications Council to research and develop a program to integrate statewide public safety communications and to advise the Department of Public Safety during program implementation. This bill establishes a time line for the program development process.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Subchapter A, Chapter 411, Government Code, by adding Section 411.0105, as follows:

Sec. 411.0105. PUBLIC SAFETY RADIO COMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL. (a)
Defines "infrastructure equipment."

(b) Sets forth the composition of the Public Safety Radio Communications Council (council).

(c) Requires the council to oversee and advise the Department of Public Safety (DPS) in the development and administration of a strategic plan to design and implement a statewide integrated public safety communications system for state agencies, and other state public safety entities that are members of the entities listed under Subdivision (6), that promotes interoperability within and between local, state, and federal agencies; to develop a model memorandum of understanding that sets forth the general terms of agreement for interoperability between a state agency and a local or federal agency; to research and identify the radio communications equipment necessary to facilitate interoperability within and between local, state, and federal agencies; to research and identify state agencies that need new or upgraded radio communications equipment to be capable of participating in interoperability within and between local, state, and federal agencies; to advise DPS in the development and administration of a program in accordance with the strategic plan under Subdivision (1) to purchase radio communications equipment for state agencies; to advise representatives of the certain entities on the purchase of infrastructure equipment and the development of specific agreements for interoperability between local, state, and federal agencies that operate radio systems and that have the capability for interoperability; and to use appropriated money, including money from relevant federal homeland security grants allocated by the office of the governor, in accordance with this section for the purposes of designing, implementing, and maintaining a statewide integrated public safety communications system.

(d) Authorizes the council to consult with a representative of an entity listed in Subsection (c)(6) to obtain assistance or information necessary for the performance of any duty under this section.

(e) Requires the council, not later than September 1 of each year, to provide to the legislature a report on the status of its duties under this section.

(f) Provides that the council is subject to Chapter 2110 (State Agency Advisory Committees), except that Section 2110.002 (Composition of Advisory Committees) does not apply.

(g) Requires DPS to provide administrative support for the council and assist with the preparation of a report required by this section.

SECTION 2. (a) Requires the council created by Section 411.0105, Government Code, as added by this Act, to hold its first meeting in accordance with that section not later than December 1, 2003, and to provide to the legislature its first report required under that section not later than September 1, 2004.

(b) Requires the first report, in addition to information about the progress of its duties and functions, to include information about the steps necessary, and projected costs, for implementation and maintenance of a statewide interoperable wireless communications system to facilitate the strategic plan under Section 411.0105(c), Government Code.

SECTION 3. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2003.