

AN ACT

relating to the creation of a council to oversee the implementation of a statewide integrated public safety radio communications system for public safety and homeland security purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 411, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 411.0105 to read as follows:

Sec. 411.0105. PUBLIC SAFETY RADIO COMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL.

(a) In this section, "infrastructure equipment" means the underlying permanent equipment required to establish interoperable communication between public safety radio systems.

(b) The Public Safety Radio Communications Council is composed of the administrative head of each of the following entities or that person's designee:

- (1) the department;
- (2) Texas Department of Transportation;
- (3) Texas Department of Criminal Justice;
- (4) Parks and Wildlife Department;
- (5) Texas Forest Service;
- (6) Texas Youth Commission;
- (7) Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission; and
- (8) Sheriffs' Association of Texas.

(c) The council shall:

- (1) oversee and advise the department in the

1 development and administration of a strategic plan to design and
2 implement a statewide integrated public safety communications
3 system for state agencies and other state public safety entities
4 that are members of the entities listed under Subdivision (6) that
5 promotes interoperability within and between local, state, and
6 federal agencies;

7 (2) develop a model memorandum of understanding that
8 sets forth the general terms of agreement for interoperability
9 between a state agency and a local or federal agency;

10 (3) research and identify the radio communications
11 equipment necessary to facilitate interoperability within and
12 between local, state, and federal agencies;

13 (4) research and identify state agencies that need new
14 or upgraded radio communications equipment to be capable of
15 participating in interoperability within and between local, state,
16 and federal agencies;

17 (5) advise the department in the development and
18 administration of a program in accordance with the strategic plan
19 under Subdivision (1) to purchase radio communications equipment
20 for state agencies;

21 (6) advise representatives of the following entities
22 on the purchase of infrastructure equipment and the development of
23 specific agreements for interoperability between local, state, and
24 federal agencies that operate radio systems and that have the
25 capability for interoperability:

26 (A) the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals'
27 Association of Texas;

- (B) the Texas Police Chiefs Association;
- (C) the Texas Fire Chiefs Association;
- (D) the Texas Association of Counties; and
- (E) the Texas Municipal League; and

(7) 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) The council may 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) Not later than September 1 of each year, the council shall provide to the legislature a report on the status of its duties under this section.

(f) The council is subject to Chapter 2110, except that Section 2110.002 does not apply.

(g) The department shall provide administrative support for the council and assist with the preparation of a report required by this section.

SECTION 2. (a) The Public Safety Radio Communications Council created by Section 411.0105, Government Code, as added by this Act:

(1) shall hold its first meeting in accordance with that section not later than December 1, 2003; and

(2) shall provide to the legislature its first report

1 required under that section not later than September 1, 2004.

2 (b) In addition to information about the progress of its
3 duties and functions, the first report must include information
4 about the steps necessary and projected costs for implementation
5 and maintenance of a statewide interoperable wireless
6 communications system to facilitate the strategic plan under
7 Section 411.0105(c), Government Code, as added by this Act.

8 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
9 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
10 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
11 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
12 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

H.B. No. 2650

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2650 was passed by the House on May 10, 2003, by the following vote: Yeas 143, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2650 was passed by the Senate on May 28, 2003, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor