

By: Kuempel (Senate Sponsor - Armbrister) H.B. No. 2650  
(In the Senate - Received from the House May 12, 2003;  
May 13, 2003, read first time and referred to Committee on  
Infrastructure Development and Security; May 22, 2003, reported  
favorably by the following vote: Yeas 7, Nays 0; May 22, 2003, sent  
to printer.)

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
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  
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;

(2) 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;

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

(4) 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;

(5) advise the department 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;

(6) advise representatives of the following 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:

(A) the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals'  
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 required under that section not later than September 1, 2004.

(b) In addition to information about the progress of its duties and functions, the first report must 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, as added by this Act.

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

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