

HB 699 -- MISSOURI UNIFORM COMMUNICATIONS ACT FOR HOMELAND SECURITY

CO-SPONSORS: Sager, Johnson (90), Cooper (120), Carnahan

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Homeland Security and Veterans Affairs by a vote of 12 to 0.

This bill creates the Public Safety Communications Committee. The bill outlines the membership of the committee. All agencies, including local and municipal agencies, that provide public safety must submit a plan to the committee for approval when requesting state funds for wireless communications programs. The committee must examine funding requests for wireless communications programs to identify and evaluate interoperability. Requisite interoperability elements must be included if proposals are to receive further consideration. The committee must draw upon Missouri's State Interoperability Executive Committee to make recommendations appropriate to maintain and enhance interoperable public safety for wireless communications. Funds used to make purchases not in compliance with the submitted plan may be subject to sanctions by the committee.

All purchases made by the Commissioner of Administration for wireless communications products for public safety must meet standards established by the Public Safety Communications Committee.

The bill repeals current law under which the Committee on State-Operated Wireless Communications Systems operates.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that most emergency service providers cannot communicate between each other by radio. Lives could be saved if police, firefighters, ambulance services, and other emergency providers could communicate. All radios should be compatible. The bill does not mandate change but offers state help if state standards are applied.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Sager; State Highway Patrol; and Division of Homeland Security.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Steve Bauer, Legislative Analyst