

HB 1555 -- Missouri Uniform Communications Act for Homeland Security

Sponsor: Sager

This bill makes changes to the laws regarding state-operated wireless communication systems. In its main provisions, the bill:

- (1) Requires all purchases made by the Commissioner of the Office of Administration for wireless communication products used for public safety to meet the standards set by the Public Safety Communications Committee for Wireless Communications Programs;
- (2) Creates the Missouri Uniform Communications Act for Homeland Security for the purpose of promoting effective, ubiquitous, and interoperable public safety communications in real time and on demand among all state and local personnel and local agencies;
- (3) Requires the development of necessary communications capabilities and procedures needed to provide assured emergency response and to minimize the response time for first responders to emergency or disastrous situations;
- (4) Creates the Public Safety Communications Committee and specifies its composition;
- (5) Requires all public safety agencies, including local, state, or other political subdivisions which provide public safety services or emergency services, to submit a plan to the committee for approval when requesting state funds or federal funds disbursed by the state for wireless communications programs;
- (6) Requires the committee to examine all funding requests for wireless communications programs and proposals to identify and evaluate interoperability;
- (7) Requires the committee to utilize the state's Interoperability Executive Committee, as recognized by the Federal Communication Commission, to make recommendations concerning the maintenance and enhancement of interoperable public safety wireless communications;
- (8) Prohibits any state or federal funds from being used to make purchases not in compliance with the plan. Violations may be subject to civil sanctions, including repayment of funds to the state; and
- (9) Repeals Section 37.250, RSMo, concerning the Committee on State-Operated Wireless Communication Systems.