

Public Safety Communications Governance Fact Sheet 12-7-15

Overview - The legislation seeks to improve coordinated governance for emergency and public safety communications. This would be accomplished by combining the statutorily authorized Emergency Communications Commission (Title 31-48) and Statewide Interoperability Executive Council (Title 46-12).

Why this legislation is important – The current governance structures do not cover the entire emergency communications system, and the fragmented approach does not support strategic statewide planning.

What this legislation will do – The new commission will provide coordination for 911 technology, dispatch, radio interoperability and public safety wireless broadband. It will reduce the duplication of efforts of multiple commissions with overlapping membership. The membership of the new commission will better represent the actual users of the emergency communications systems.

What this legislation will not do – This legislation does not alter any current funding mechanisms. Sheriffs and police chiefs operating Public Safety Answering Points will continue to receive 911 fees and grants will continue to be provided by the commission for the purposes of improving consolidated emergency communications systems. There is no intent to change the structure of the 911 funding mechanisms (31-4804 and 31-4819) to fund anything other than 911 systems or to redirect 911 funds in any new way. A funding mechanism for radio is not addressed nor intended at this time; however, should funds become available through grants or future legislative action the legislation has designated an account for those funds in order to keep the 911 funds and any new funds separate and accounted for.

Benefits of this legislation

- A holistic approach will enable higher levels of service to citizens through effective emergency communications. This organization will support communications from the time a citizen dials 911 through to the dispatch and response.
- The legislation will allow the new commission to identify short and long term financial savings and sustainability.
- It will support the implementation of new technologies such as Next Generation 911 and FirstNet in a coordinated fashion that makes the most sense for Idaho's first responder community.
- It empowers local input through the addition of representation of the District Interoperability Governance Boards, made up of local representatives.

WHO SUPPORTS THIS LEGISLATION

ID Sheriffs' Association
ID Association of Counties
ID Fire Chiefs Association
Idaho State Police
Idaho Military Division
Executive Office of Idaho Governor Otter
ID State Communications Center

This legislation is under consideration from the Association of Cities and the Idaho Chiefs of Police Association.