

MINUTES
HOUSE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, March 14, 2013

TIME: 1:30 p.m. or Upon Adjournment of the House

PLACE: Room EW05

MEMBERS: Chairman Barrett, Vice Chairman Sims, Representatives Barbieri, Luker, Perry, Clow, Hancey, Harris, Holtzclaw, Horman, Malek, Chew, Kloc, Meline

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Rep. Chew

GUESTS: Garret Nancolas and R. David Moore, Emergency Communications Commission (ECC)

Chairman Barrett called the meeting to order at 2:58 p.m.

MOTION: **Rep. Harris** made a motion to approve the minutes of March 12, 2013. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

H 80: **Rep. Wills**, representing the Emergency Communications Commission (ECC), presented **H 80**, which would remove the sunset clause in Section 31-4819, Idaho Code, to revise the provisions relating to enhanced emergency communication grant fees to cities and counties. He said the ECC is part of the Department of the Military, based at Gowan Field. It began with the intent and purpose of taking twenty-five cent fees from telephone lines, to facilitate radio communication across the State of Idaho. Monies that come in are sent back to cities and counties via grants. Approximately \$6.6 million have been given out through this program.

Responding to questions, **Rep. Wills** explained that, originally, the goal was to ensure all counties had basic 911 service. Currently all counties are served, and some have moved to enhanced service. Some counties have high enough populations that they do not require financial aid, but others are not self-sustaining and do require the assistance that is provided through the grant program.

Garret Nancolas, Emergency Communications Commission (ECC) and City of Caldwell, testified **in support** of **H 80**. He said responders must know where they are needed and what is needed in a timely manner. The ECC's original program allowed basic dispatch service. Phase II addresses wireless calls including text messages. It is important to be able to pinpoint the location of a cell phone based 911 call if the caller is unable to speak. As technology changes, the cities and counties must adjust their service.

MOTION: **Rep. Kloc** made a motion to send **H 80** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Harris** requested to be recorded as voting NAY. **Rep. Wills** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:14 p.m.

Representative Barrett
Chair

Mary Tipps
Secretary