

Coordinated Emergency Communications Governance Talking Points
Draft legislation to consolidate the ECC and SIEC
11/11/15

Overview

The legislation seeks to consolidate governance for emergency and public safety communications. Statute currently authorizes the Idaho Emergency Communications Commission (ECC) and Statewide Interoperability Executive Council (SIEC) to provide coordination of distinct components of the communications system.

The current governance structures do not cover the entire emergency communications system, and the fragmented approach does not support strategic statewide planning. 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 reflect the actual users of the emergency communications systems.

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.

Funding

The legislation will not alter current funding mechanisms and will not impact state budgets. Sheriffs and police chiefs responsible for the state's forty-six PSAPs will continue to receive fees collected from users accessing emergency centers in their jurisdictions. Grants will continue to be provided by the commission for the purposes of improving consolidated emergency communications systems. A new fund will be established for public safety radio and data systems for monies received from federal grants, donations and gifts. 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. This "new" fund will keep 911 funds separate and intact.

New Technology

The proposed changes to Title 31, Chapter 48 will encompass new and emerging technologies.

Next Generation consolidated Emergency System (NG911), is a new technology not considered in the original and current ECC Idaho code. NG911 is designed to provide access to emergency services from all connected communications sources such as VOIP, VOLTE, and/or text to 911, providing multimedia data capabilities for the public safety answering points (PSAP's) allowing them to be more efficient. The legislative proposal includes coordination of wireless data systems, recognizing the coming implementation of the National Public Safety Wireless Broadband Network also known as FirstNet. FirstNet is authorized through congressional action, which provides funding and spectrum for the

dedicated public safety data network. Network implementation requires state input and is expected to occur between 2018 and 2022.

Commission Makeup

The 17 members on the IECC would provide a greater representation statewide from all disciplines including law enforcement, fire, elected officials from city and county government, state government, as well as a member from the legislature and non-voting member from the Indian tribes within the state.

New positions:

- District Interoperability Governance Boards (6 individuals)
- Tribal representative (non-voting)

Eliminated Positions

- Prosecuting Attorneys Association (no direct involvement in emergency communications)
- Wireless Industry (no direct involvement, potential conflict of interest)
- Wireline Industry (no direct involvement, potential conflict of interest)
- EMS Association (represented through IDHW/EMS State Communications)

Commission Staff Support

The E911 Program Manager will continue to advise and coordinate 911 activities on behalf of the commission. This is a current position located within the Idaho Military Division.

The Statewide Interoperability Coordinator will provide support and technical expertise to the commission in the areas of radio interoperability and data systems. This is a current position located within the Idaho Military Division, Bureau of Homeland Security.

The FirstNet Program Manager will provide support to the commission in regard to wireless data systems. This is a current position located within the Idaho Military Division, Bureau of Homeland Security.

Local Control

The commission membership is proposed to include members of the six District Interoperability Governing Boards. These boards are located in the six regions of the state, and are made up of local practitioners of emergency communications. In addition, local government will be represented through the Idaho Chiefs of Police Association, Idaho Sheriffs' Association, Idaho Fire Chiefs Association, Idaho Association of Counties and Association of Idaho Cities. Their representation on the commission will ensure those directly involved in the systems will be on the commission.

Local government will also be able to eliminate the duplication of their human resources since many of their employees are members of today's two separate commissions.

State Agency Representation

State agencies on the commission will be the Idaho State Police, Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security and Idaho Department of Health and Welfare Emergency Medical Services Communications Center. Other state agencies not on the commission will be represented through the Statewide Interoperability Coordinator who will report to the commission at each meeting on their behalf.

Process

The legislative idea was the outcome of discussions between a wide group of stakeholders including the Idaho Sheriffs Association, Idaho Association of Counties, Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security and Idaho State Police. A series of meetings, summits and conference calls were held over a period of 18 months, resulting in the legislative proposal. The Idaho Military Division presented the legislative idea to the Division of Financial Management, which provided authorization for the proposal to be part of the Governor's legislative package.

Benefits of the Combined Commission

- Better coordination between state and local governments
- More comprehensive and strategic emergency communications planning
- A greater voice to those actually managing and operating Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs)
- Regional flexibility
- Elimination of redundancy of multiple commissions
- Increased equipment purchasing power
- Lower meeting costs