

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 236

BY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

AN ACT

1 RELATING TO FIRST INFORMER BROADCASTERS; AMENDING TITLE 31, IDAHO CODE, BY
2 THE ADDITION OF A NEW CHAPTER 59, TITLE 31, IDAHO CODE, TO DEFINE TERMS,
3 TO PROVIDE FOR FIRST INFORMER BROADCASTERS IN THE IDAHO EMERGENCY OPER-
4 ATIONS PLAN AND TO PROVIDE FOR TRAINING.
5

6 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

7 SECTION 1. That Title 31, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended
8 by the addition thereto of a NEW CHAPTER, to be known and designated as Chap-
9 ter 59, Title 31, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

10 CHAPTER 59

11 FIRST INFORMER BROADCASTERS ACT

12 31-5901. DEFINITIONS. As used in this chapter the following terms have
13 the following meanings:

14 (1) "Broadcaster" means any corporation or other entity that is pri-
15 marily engaged in the business of broadcasting video or audio programming,
16 whether through the public airwaves, cable, direct or indirect satellite
17 transmission or any other similar means of communication.

18 (2) "Emergency" means the declaration of a state of emergency or disas-
19 ter as provided by law.

20 (3) "First informer broadcaster" means a broadcaster in Idaho that
21 makes application to the Idaho office of emergency management for designa-
22 tion as a first informer broadcaster and that is granted such designation as
23 a first informer broadcaster pursuant to rules and regulations promulgated
24 by the coordinator of the office of emergency management pursuant to chapter
25 10, title 46, Idaho Code.

26 31-5902. FIRST INFORMER BROADCASTERS. The unified incident command
27 system and the Idaho emergency operations plan shall, by July 1, 2017, es-
28 tablish planning for first informer broadcasters such that first informer
29 broadcasters, to any extent practicable, during an emergency may:

30 (1) Have access to areas affected by an emergency for the purpose of
31 restoring, repairing or resupplying any facility or equipment critical to
32 the ability of a broadcaster to acquire, produce or transmit emergency-re-
33 lated programming including, but not limited to, repairing and maintaining
34 transmitters and generators and transporting fuel for generators;

35 (2) Have access to the distribution of fuel, food, water, supplies,
36 equipment and any other materials necessary for maintaining or producing a
37 broadcast or broadcasting signal; and

38 (3) Not have vehicles, fuel, food, water and any other materials seized
39 or condemned that are essential for maintaining or producing a broadcast or
40 broadcasting signal.

1 31-5903. TRAINING. The Idaho office of emergency management may de-
2 velop or adopt courses of instruction for use in training personnel of first
3 informer broadcasters on personal safety and navigation in an area affected
4 by an emergency. The requirements of any such training shall be established
5 pursuant to rules and regulations promulgated by the director of emergency
6 management. The costs of any such training shall be paid by the first in-
7 former broadcasters participating in the training.