

House Study Bill 149

Conference Committee Text

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1 1 Section 1. Section 80B.11, Code 1995, is amended by adding
1 2 the following new subsection:

1 3 NEW SUBSECTION. 8A. Minimum qualifications for
1 4 instructors in telecommunicator training schools.

1 5 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 80B.11C TELECOMMUNICATOR TRAINING
1 6 STANDARDS.

1 7 The director of the academy, subject to the approval of the
1 8 council, in consultation with the Iowa state sheriffs' and
1 9 deputies' association, the Iowa police executive forum, the
1 10 joint council of Iowa fire service organizations, the Iowa
1 11 department of public safety, the Iowa chapter of the
1 12 association of public safety communications officials-
1 13 international, inc., the Iowa chapter of the national
1 14 emergency number association, the emergency management
1 15 division of the Iowa department of public defense, and the
1 16 Iowa department of public health, shall adopt rules pursuant
1 17 to chapter 17A establishing minimum standards for training of
1 18 telecommunicators. For purposes of this section,
1 19 "telecommunicator" means a person who receives requests for,
1 20 or dispatches requests to, emergency response agencies which
1 21 include, but are not limited to, law enforcement, fire,
1 22 rescue, and emergency medical services agencies.

1 23 EXPLANATION

1 24 This bill requires the director of the Iowa law enforcement
1 25 academy to adopt rules establishing minimum standards for the
1 26 training of telecommunicators. The rules are to be adopted
1 27 subject to the approval of the Iowa law enforcement academy
1 28 council and in consultation with the Iowa state sheriffs' and
1 29 deputies' association, the Iowa police executive forum, the
1 30 joint council of Iowa fire service organizations, the Iowa
1 31 department of public safety, the Iowa chapter of the
1 32 association of public safety communications officials-
1 33 international, inc., the Iowa chapter of the national
1 34 emergency number association, the emergency management
1 35 division of the Iowa department of public defense, and the
2 1 Iowa department of public health.

2 2 BACKGROUND STATEMENT

2 3 SUBMITTED BY THE AGENCY

2 4 At the present time in the state of Iowa there is no
2 5 provision for the regulation of, or even the requirement for
2 6 training of, telecommunicators, sometimes known as dispatchers
2 7 or radio operators. Emergency response is only as strong as
2 8 its weakest link, each facet very dependent upon the other.
2 9 With 911 and enhanced 911 services being established and
2 10 developed across the state, a number of law enforcement and
2 11 emergency response agencies and organizations in Iowa are
2 12 recognizing the importance of the person who is responsible
2 13 for answering the telephone, sorting out information received,
2 14 dispatching appropriate units and then maintaining contact
2 15 with those units, and the person who initiated the emergency
2 16 call until the emergency has been appropriately addressed.
2 17 These agencies are also concerned with liability issues that
2 18 may also be present.

2 19 Representatives of law enforcement and emergency response
2 20 organizations and agencies have reached a consensus that
2 21 training for telecommunicators and standardization of response

2 22 across Iowa are of very significant consequence to the state.
2 23 It is the belief of these agencies and organizations that the
2 24 Iowa law enforcement academy is the appropriate agency to
2 25 coordinate telecommunicator training in view of the extensive
2 26 involvement of law enforcement and the placement of the
2 27 majority of enhanced 911 public safety answering points in law
2 28 enforcement agencies in the state.
2 29 LSB 1088DP 76
2 30 mj/sc/14.1