

Senate File 2137 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 2137

BY MATHIS

A BILL FOR

1 An Act providing for the establishment of a uniform statewide
2 emergency outdoor warning system task force.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. UNIFORM STATEWIDE EMERGENCY OUTDOOR WARNING
2 SYSTEM — TASK FORCE ESTABLISHED.

3 1. a. The director of the department of homeland security
4 and emergency management, or the director's designee, shall
5 convene a task force that includes members representing the
6 departments of homeland security and emergency management,
7 public defense, public safety, and education, private
8 sector meteorologists, and cities, counties, townships, and
9 unincorporated areas of varying populations and geographic
10 areas of the state. The objective of the task force shall be to
11 establish common guidelines across the state for the activation
12 of emergency outdoor warning systems.

13 b. The task force shall collect and analyze data relating to
14 the criteria for emergency outdoor warning system activation
15 and the extent to which the criteria varies, and the varying
16 procedures for activation of emergency outdoor warning
17 systems. Based on this analysis, the task force shall develop
18 recommendations for standardizing emergency outdoor warning
19 system activation, and a set of best practices regarding the
20 operation and maintenance of such systems.

21 2. The task force shall submit a report summarizing its
22 findings and recommendations to the governor and the general
23 assembly by January 1, 2015.

24 EXPLANATION

25 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
26 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

27 This bill establishes a uniform statewide emergency outdoor
28 warning system task force.

29 The bill requires the director of the department of homeland
30 security and emergency management, or the director's designee,
31 to convene a task force that includes members representing the
32 departments of homeland security and emergency management,
33 public defense, public safety, and education, private
34 sector meteorologists, and cities, counties, townships, and
35 unincorporated areas of varying populations and geographic

1 areas of the state. The bill provides that the objective of
2 the task force shall be to establish common guidelines across
3 the state for the activation of emergency outdoor warning
4 systems.

5 The task force is charged with collecting and analyzing data
6 relating to the criteria for emergency outdoor warning system
7 activation and the extent to which the criteria varies, and the
8 varying procedures for activation of emergency outdoor warning
9 systems. Based on this analysis, the bill requires the task
10 force to develop recommendations for standardizing emergency
11 outdoor warning system activation, and a set of best practices
12 regarding the operation and maintenance of such systems.

13 The bill requires the task force to submit a report
14 summarizing its findings and recommendations to the governor
15 and the general assembly by January 1, 2015.