

**CHAPTER 90****INTEROPERABLE PUBLIC SAFETY AND SERVICES  
COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM — BOARD***H.F. 353*

**AN ACT** relating to public safety communications by establishing an Iowa statewide interoperable communications system board.

*Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:*

Section 1. **NEW SECTION. 80.28 STATEWIDE INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM BOARD — ESTABLISHED — MEMBERS.**

1. A statewide interoperable communications system board is established, under the joint purview of the department and the state department of transportation. The board shall develop, implement, and oversee policy, operations, and fiscal components of communications interoperability efforts at the state and local level, and coordinate with similar efforts at the federal level, with the ultimate objective of developing and overseeing the operation of a statewide integrated public safety communications interoperability system. For the purposes of this section and section 80.29, “interoperability” means the ability of public safety and public services personnel to communicate and to share data on an immediate basis, on demand, when needed, and when authorized.

2. The board shall consist of fifteen voting members, as follows:

a. The following members representing state agencies:

- (1) One member representing the department of public safety.
- (2) One member representing the state department of transportation.
- (3) One member representing the homeland security and emergency management division.
- (4) One member representing the department of corrections.
- (5) One member representing the department of natural resources.
- (6) One member representing the Iowa department of public health.

b. The following members, to be appointed by the governor:

- (1) Two members who are representatives from municipal police departments.
- (2) Two members who are representatives of sheriff’s offices.
- (3) Two members who are representatives from fire departments.
- (4) Two members who are law communication center managers employed by state or local government agencies.
- (5) One at-large member.

3. Board members shall be appointed in compliance with sections 69.16 and 69.16A. Members shall elect a chairperson and vice chairperson from the board membership, who shall serve two-year terms. The members appointed by the governor shall be appointed to three-year staggered terms and the terms shall commence and end as provided by section 69.19. The governor shall solicit and consider recommendations from professional or volunteer organizations in making appointments to the board. If a vacancy occurs, a successor shall be appointed to serve the unexpired term. A successor shall be appointed in the same manner and subject to the same qualifications as the original appointment to serve the unexpired term. Members of the board are entitled to receive reimbursement for actual expenses incurred while engaged in the performance of official duties from funds appropriated to the department of public safety and the state department of transportation for that purpose. The departments shall enter into an agreement to provide administrative assistance and support to the board.

Sec. 2. **NEW SECTION. 80.29 BOARD DUTIES.**

The statewide interoperable communications system board established in section 80.28 shall:

1. Implement and maintain organizational and operational elements of the board, including staffing and program activity.

2. Review and monitor communications interoperability performance and service levels on behalf of agencies.
3. Establish, monitor, and maintain appropriate policies and protocols to ensure that interoperable communications systems function properly.
4. Allocate and oversee state appropriations or other funding received for interoperable communications.
5. Identify sources for ongoing, sustainable, longer-term funding for communications interoperability projects, including available and future assets that will leverage resources and provide incentives for communications interoperability participation, and develop and obtain adequate funding in accordance with a communications interoperability sustainability plan.
6. Develop and evaluate potential legislative solutions to address the funding and resource challenges of implementing statewide communications interoperability initiatives.
7. Develop a statewide integrated public safety communications interoperability system that allows for shared communications systems and costs, takes into account infrastructure needs and requirements, improves reliability, and addresses liability concerns of the shared network.
8. Investigate data and video interoperability systems.
9. Expand, maintain, and fund consistent, periodic training programs for current communications systems and for the statewide integrated public safety communications interoperability system as it is implemented.
10. Expand, maintain, and fund stakeholder education, public education, and public official education programs to demonstrate the value of short-term communications interoperability solutions, and to emphasize the importance of developing and funding long-term solutions, including implementation of the statewide integrated public safety communications interoperability system.
11. Identify, promote, and provide incentives for appropriate collaborations and partnerships among government entities, agencies, businesses, organizations, and associations, both public and private, relating to communications interoperability.
12. Provide incentives to support maintenance and expansion of regional efforts to promote implementation of the statewide integrated public safety communications interoperability system.
13. In performing its duties, consult with representatives of private businesses, organizations, and associations on technical matters relating to data, video, and communications interoperability; technological developments in private industry; and potential collaboration and partnership opportunities.
14. Submit a report by January 1, annually, to the members of the general assembly regarding communications interoperability efforts, activities, and effectiveness at the local and regional level, and shall include a status report regarding the development of a statewide integrated public safety communications interoperability system, and funding requirements relating thereto.

Approved April 20, 2007