

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	8 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Boone, Esquivel, Freeman, Komp, Matthews, Riley, Weidner, Cowan
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	David Molina, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	3/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires the owner or operator of commercial and industrial facilities where an electronic signaling device is located to noticeably post an emergency contact telephone number in order to expediently assist emergency response personnel with locating and silencing the device should it be activated outside of normal business hours.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The urgent need to reduce false alarms and save affected organizational personnel time and limited resources
- Devices prone to technical failure, human error or low battery often without the prior knowledge of the owner
- Commercial and industrial facilities are the focus, not private residences
- Airport hangars are secured, but not mandated to have an emergency contact telephone number

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Replaces the provision of the bill.

BACKGROUND: Emergency Position-Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs), Emergency Locator Transmitters (ELTs), and Personal Locator Beacons (PLBs) are all tracking transmitters that operate as part of the Cospas-Sarsat satellite system. When activated, the beacons send out a distress signal that allows the beacon to be located by the satellite system and search and rescue aircraft to locate the people, boats and aircraft needing rescue. The response is swift, but often a false alarm, where agency personnel must stand-by until the owner of the craft can be contacted to deactivate the device. According to proponents of the measure, House Bill 2521-A will lessen the amount of hours and costs incurred responding to an activated device.