

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure
Vote: 4 - 0 - 1
Yeas: George, Schrader, Starr, Metsger
Nays: -
Exc.: Verger
Prepared By: Jim Stembridge, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 4/29

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires owner or operator of commercial and industrial facilities where an electronic signaling device is located to conspicuously post an emergency contact telephone number.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Accidental discharge of electronic locator beacons
- National signal-response network
- Devices on airplanes, boats, and in shops for repair
- Nature of contact information required

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

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 distress signals that allow the beacon's position to be determined by the satellite system so that search and rescue personnel can locate the device. Responders often find false alarms, and must stand by until the owner can be contacted to deactivate the device. The purpose of providing the emergency contact telephone number, as required in House Bill 2521-A, is to assist emergency personnel with locating and silencing the device should it be activated outside of normal business hours. According to proponents, House Bill 2521-A decreases the costs of responding to false alarms.