

PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**CARRIER:**

Senate Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

REVENUE: No revenue impact**FISCAL: No fiscal impact****SUBSEQUENT REFERRAL TO: None****Action:****Vote:****Yeas:****Nays:****Exc.:****Prepared By:** Cheyenne Ross, Administrator**Meeting Dates:** 4/28, 5/5

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Authorizes media access to restricted areas under emergency declaration. Prohibits emergency personnel from commandeering broadcaster property. Requires Office of Emergency Management (OEM) to authorize a private broadcasters association to plan to create a program to issue credentials for authorized persons. Requires such plan to include specified training. Requires private broadcasters association to submit annual report to OEM.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Intent of measure to ensure functioning facilities and transmitters in order to remain on-air, not news gathering
- Amendment to narrow scope of access
- Bona fide emergencies only
- Deference to on-site incident commanders

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

[A5 amendment] Permits access only to maintain critical equipment.

BACKGROUND: House Bill 2210-A permits broadcasters to access restricted areas during a declared emergency, unless otherwise prohibited by law or by an incident commander. The measure also prohibits emergency service providers from seizing property that belongs to the media. Finally, the measure requires the Office of Emergency to management to authorize a private association of broadcasters to develop a program and issue credentials.

House Committee: 6 – 0 – 1

House Floor: 57 – 0 – 3