

House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 04/16/15

Action: Do Pass.

Meeting Dates: 04/02, 04/16

Vote:

Yeas: 6 - Boone, Esquivel, Evans, Huffman, Lively, Parrish

Exc: 1 - Piluso

Prepared By: Bryan Guiney, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Removes Office of Emergency Management (OEM) requirement to coordinate cellular device location reporting during emergency.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Average time for wireless carriers to provide cellular device location to law enforcement (8 minutes)

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In 2014 the legislature passed the Kelsey Smith Act requiring radio communications cellular service providers to turn over cellular device location information to law enforcement for emergency response purposes in situations involving risk of death or serious physical harm. The measure required the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) to maintain a database of emergency contact information for cellular service providers; to coordinate data collection with Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) and law enforcement; and to report to the legislature biennially. OEM has contracted with a vendor and earmarked \$69,222.00 of 9-1-1 tax dollars for phase one of the data collection project. City and county emergency management departments and PSAPs report excellent working relationships with wireless carriers, with carriers quickly providing critical location information in a timely manner.

House Bill 2919 removes the requirement for the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) to coordinate data collection with PSAPs and law enforcement agencies.