

B-Engrossed
House Bill 2210

Ordered by the Senate May 8
Including House Amendments dated March 6 and Senate Amendments
dated May 8

Sponsored by Representatives HUFFMAN, BOONE; Representatives EVANS, POST, READ, WILSON (Pre-session filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure.

Authorizes individuals acting under authority of broadcasters to enter geographic area subject to declaration of emergency to *[provide public service or to]* maintain essential broadcast equipment.

Requires Office of Emergency Management to authorize private entity to issue credentials to individuals acting under authority of broadcasters.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to access of broadcasters to geographic area subject to declaration of emergency.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1. Section 2 of this 2015 Act is added to and made a part of ORS chapter 401.**

5 **SECTION 2. (1) As used in this section:**

6 (a) **"Broadcaster" means a person that holds a license issued by the Federal Communi-**
7 **cations Commission under 47 C.F.R. parts 73, 74, 76 or 78.**

8 (b) **"First informer" means an individual:**

9 (A) **Who has received credentials under this section and who is employed by, or acting**
10 **pursuant to a contract under the direction of, a broadcaster; and**

11 (B) **Who is:**

12 (i) **Maintaining, including repairing or resupplying, transmitters, generators or other es-**
13 **sential equipment at a broadcast station or facility; or**

14 (ii) **Providing technical support services to a broadcaster or to another first informer.**

15 (2) **Unless prohibited by state or federal law or in the discretion of the incident**
16 **commander during an emergency declared under ORS 401.165, a first informer may:**

17 (a) **Travel on public roads within a geographic area subject to a declaration of emergency**
18 **under ORS 401.165;**

19 (b) **Access the geographic area for the purposes of maintaining transmitters, generators**
20 **or other essential equipment at a broadcast station or facility used to acquire, produce or**
21 **transmit news or public safety information related to the emergency; and**

22 (c) **Access the distribution of fuel, food, water, supplies, equipment and any other mate-**
23 **rials necessary for producing a broadcast or a broadcasting signal.**

24 (3) **An emergency service agency may not seize a vehicle, fuel, food, water or other es-**
25 **sential materials in the possession of a first informer.**

26 (4) **The Office of Emergency Management shall authorize a private entity organized under**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 **the laws of this state that represents a majority of the broadcasters in this state to establish**
2 **a program for the issuance of credentials for first informers pursuant to a plan developed**
3 **by the private entity. The plan to provide credentials to first informers must provide for**
4 **training first informers regarding:**

5 **(a) Risks associated with entering a geographic area subject to a declaration of an**
6 **emergency under ORS 401.165;**

7 **(b) Best practices for working safely in the geographic area; and**

8 **(c) Best practices for working in a geographic area without hindering or interfering with**
9 **the conduct of emergency services by an emergency service agency.**

10 **(5) The private entity selected by the office to develop a plan for and issue credentials**
11 **to first informers shall annually submit to the office a report regarding the operation of the**
12 **program to issue credentials, including any changes to the plan or program.**

13