

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 54th Legislature (2014)

HOUSE BILL 3156

By: Wright

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to public health and safety; creating the Oklahoma First Informer Broadcasters Act; defining certain terms; permitting broadcasters to develop certain plans relating to emergencies; permitting certain organization to establish program to train and certify first informer broadcasters; establishing certain criteria of program; requiring state and local agencies to allow first informer broadcaster to access certain area for certain purpose; providing for codification; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 683.35 of Title 63, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Oklahoma First Informer Broadcasters Act".

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 683.36 of Title 63, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. As defined in this section:

1 1. "Broadcaster" means a radio broadcasting station or
2 television broadcasting station primarily engaged in, and deriving
3 income from, the business of facilitating speech via over-the-air
4 communications, both as to pure speech and commercial speech; and

5 2. "First informer broadcaster" means a person who has been
6 certified as a first informer broadcaster pursuant to subsection C
7 of this section.

8 B. Broadcasters in this state may, in cooperation with the
9 Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management and a statewide
10 organization that represents radio and television broadcasters,
11 develop comprehensive, coordinated plans for preparing for and
12 responding appropriately to an emergency or disaster.

13 C. A statewide organization that represents radio and
14 television broadcasters may establish a program for training and
15 certifying broadcast engineers and technical personnel as first
16 informer broadcasters. The program established pursuant to this
17 subsection shall:

18 1. Be consistent with federal law and guidelines;

19 2. Provide training and education concerning restoring,
20 repairing and resupplying any facilities and equipment of a
21 broadcaster in an area affected by an emergency or disaster; and

22 3. Provide training and education concerning the personal
23 safety of a first informer broadcaster in an area affected by an
24 emergency or disaster.

1 D. To the extent practicable and consistent with not
2 endangering public safety or inhibiting recovery efforts, state and
3 local governmental agencies shall allow a first informer broadcaster
4 access to an area affected by an emergency or disaster for the
5 purpose of restoring, repairing, or resupplying any facility or
6 equipment critical to the ability of a broadcaster to acquire,
7 produce, and transmit essential emergency or disaster-related public
8 information programming, including, without limitation, repairing
9 and maintaining transmitters and generators, and transporting fuel
10 for generators.

11 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
12 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby
13 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
14 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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16 54-2-8314 AM 12/09/13

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