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Statewide Public Safety Telecommunicator Training Standard and Certification

SB 5555 – Concerning Public Safety Telecommunicators

Why do we need Statewide Certification?

- Public Safety Telecommunicators (PSTs) are the only public safety professionals who are not required to be certified and do not have standardized training.
- The public expects a standard level of service when they call 911 regardless of where they are in the State.
- All PSTs need to receive minimum training to ensure a standard level of service.
- Continuing education and recertification will keep PSTs' skills and knowledge current and prepare them for changes in the profession.

What are the crucial components of the PST certification bill?

- The Bill:
 - Establishes a volunteer PST Certification Board that will:
 - Set minimum training standards for Public Safety Telecommunicators
 - Ensure PST training programs meet the standard
 - Set the certification and recertification requirements
 - Plan the transition process for existing PSTs to obtain initial certification
 - Recognizes PSTs as first responders
- PST Certification Board composition:
 - Chair or Vice-Chair State 911 Advisory Committee
 - 2- Emergency Communications Centers Directors (East/West)
 - 2- Labor Union Representatives
 - 1-Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs Representative
 - 1-State Fire Chiefs Association Representative
 - 1-Washington Association of Counties Representative
 - 2-Public Safety Telecommunicators (East/West)
- State 911 Coordinator's Office will provide staff functions for the Board

How will the certification program be funded?

- The nominal funding required to administer the program and the Board activities will come from the State E911 account.
- An excise tax on telecommunications devices funds the State E911 Account.

How many States require minimum training for public safety telecommunicators?

- 31 other States require some level of minimum training for telecommunicators.

We are asking for your support of SB 5555 to pass this bill out of committee, to the floor and to the House of Representatives.

Mission Statement:

Join together as public safety communications professionals to lead, learn, and leverage our influence, for the benefit of our profession, the public safety workforce, and ultimately the public we serve.