

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 1028

As Passed House:

February 13, 2009

Title: An act relating to services provided by television reception improvement districts.

Brief Description: Concerning services provided by television reception improvement districts.

Sponsors: Representative Armstrong.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Technology, Energy & Communications: 1/15/09, 1/21/09 [DP].

Floor Activity

Passed House: 2/13/09, 95-0.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Allows television reception improvement districts to use the excise tax collected to construct, maintain, and operate public safety emergency radio communications systems.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY, ENERGY & COMMUNICATIONS

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 14 members: Representatives McCoy, Chair; Eddy, Vice Chair; Crouse, Ranking Minority Member; Haler, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Carlyle, Condotta, Finn, Hasegawa, Herrera, Hinkle, Jacks, McCune, Takko and Van De Wege.

Minority Report: Without recommendation. Signed by 1 member: Representative Hudgins.

Staff: Kara Durbin (786-7133)

Background:

Legislation allowing for the creation of television reception improvement districts was enacted in 1971. State law authorizes television reception improvement districts to be

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formed for the construction, maintenance, and operation of television and frequency modulation radio translator stations.

The business of the district is conducted by the board of a television reception improvement district. The board must ascertain and prepare a list on an annual basis of all persons believed to own television sets within the district and deliver a copy of the list to the county treasurer.

The county treasurer may collect an excise tax of no more than \$60 per year per television set. A person who owns more than one television set, but less than five television sets, may only be assessed for one television set. A motel, hotel, or any person owning more than five television sets must pay at a rate of one-fifth of the annual tax rate for each of the first five television sets and one-tenth of such rate for each additional television set.

An owner of a television set within the district is exempt if: (1) the television set does not receive at least a class grade B contour signal retransmitted by the television translator station or other similar device operated by the district; or (2) the television set receives a subscription to services of a community antenna system.

Summary of Bill:

The purpose section of the television reception improvement district statute is extended to include activities to construct, maintain, and operate public safety emergency radio communications systems.

A television reception improvement district may translate or retransmit signals which originate from public safety emergency radio communications systems.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony:

(In support) This is a very straightforward bill, which only affects a few areas. This committee heard and passed this bill last year. In rural parts of the state, emergency radios would benefit in co-locating at the same site as where these television reception towers are located. This bill allows this type of co-location to occur.

(Opposed) None.

Persons Testifying: Representative Armstrong, prime sponsor.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.