

ASSEMBLY, No. 3545

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 216th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JULY 11, 2014

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman ANNETTE QUIJANO

District 20 (Union)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes program certifying certain broadcast station personnel to undertake certain actions during emergencies.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning certain radio and cable and broadcast television
2 station personnel actions for public safety purposes and
3 supplementing P.L.1942, c.251 (C.App.A:9-33 et seq.).
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:
7

8 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the “First
9 Informer Broadcasters Act.”
10

11 2. As used in P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
12 Legislature as this bill):

13 “Alternative emergency power generator” shall have the same
14 meaning as provided in section 1 of P.L.2011, c.178 (C.App.A:9-
15 43.8).

16 “Broadcaster” means senior station management or other
17 technical or senior personnel employed by a broadcasting business
18 or an independent contractor that contracts with a broadcasting
19 business.

20 “Broadcasting business” means a full-power radio broadcasting
21 station licensed by the Federal Communications Commission
22 pursuant to 47 U.S.C. s.301, a cable television company as that term
23 is defined in section 3 of P.L.1972, c.186 (C.48:5A-3), a television
24 broadcast station licensed by the Federal Communications
25 Commission pursuant to 47 C.F.R. s.73.601 et seq., or a Statewide
26 organization that represents broadcasters, and that conducts
27 business in this State.

28 “Emergency” means an emergency or local disaster emergency
29 as those terms are defined in section 3 of P.L.1953, c.438
30 (C.App.A:9-33.1).

31 “First informer broadcaster” means a broadcaster who, during an
32 emergency, has the ability to access, operate, and repair broadcast
33 infrastructure necessary for the transmission to the public of
34 emergency-related alerts and programming and who has been
35 certified as a first informer broadcaster pursuant to section 3 of
36 P.L., c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

37 "Independent contractor" means a person, firm, company, or
38 organization that enters into a contract with a broadcasting business
39 to work within, supply, or deliver materials to broadcast
40 infrastructure and whose employees have physical access to
41 broadcast infrastructure.
42

43 3. a. Consistent with federal and State laws, rules, and
44 regulations, the State Office of Emergency Management in the
45 Division of State Police in the Department of Law and Public
46 Safety, in consultation with a Statewide organization that represents
47 broadcasters, shall develop and oversee a program, to be
48 administered by a Statewide organization that represents

1 broadcasters, for training and certifying a broadcaster as a first
2 informer broadcaster, as defined in section 2 of P.L. , c. (C.)
3 (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

4 b. The program established pursuant to this section shall
5 include, but not be limited to:

6 (1) training and education concerning restoring, repairing, and
7 resupplying any broadcast infrastructure in an area affected by an
8 emergency;

9 (2) training and education concerning the personal safety of a
10 first informer broadcaster in an area affected by an emergency; and

11 (3) certification issued by the State Office of Emergency
12 Management to broadcasters that have completed first informer
13 broadcaster training.

14 c. To the extent practicable, and consistent with public safety
15 and recovery efforts, a State and local governmental agency shall
16 allow a first informer broadcaster, who is certified pursuant to this
17 section, access to an area affected by an emergency for the purpose
18 of restoring, repairing, or resupplying any facility or equipment
19 necessary to acquire, produce, and transmit to the public essential
20 emergency-related alerts and programming, including, but not
21 limited to, transporting fuel to an alternative emergency power
22 generator.

23 d. A record of first informer broadcaster certification shall be
24 provided to and remain on file with the State Office of Emergency
25 Management and shall be made available to State and local
26 government agencies.

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28 4. This act shall take effect immediately.
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31 STATEMENT

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33 This bill, entitled the “First Informer Broadcasters Act,” provides
34 that, consistent with federal and State laws, rules, and regulations,
35 the State Office of Emergency Management (OEM) in the Division
36 of State Police in the Department of Law and Public Safety, in
37 consultation with a Statewide organization that represents
38 broadcasters, is to develop and oversee a program, to be
39 administered by a Statewide organization that represents
40 broadcasters, for training and certifying a broadcaster as a first
41 informer broadcaster. The program is to include, but not be limited
42 to:

43 (1) training and education concerning restoring, repairing, and
44 resupplying any facilities and equipment of a broadcaster in an area
45 affected by an emergency;

46 (2) training and education concerning the personal safety of a
47 first informer broadcaster in an area affected by an emergency; and

1 (3) certification issued by the State Office of Emergency
2 Management to broadcasters that have completed first informer
3 broadcaster training.

4 To the extent practicable and consistent with public safety and
5 recovery efforts, State and local governmental agencies are to allow
6 a first informer broadcaster access to an area affected by an
7 emergency for the purpose of restoring, repairing, or resupplying
8 any facility or equipment necessary to acquire, produce, and
9 transmit to the public essential emergency-related alerts or
10 programming, including, but not limited to, transporting fuel to
11 alternative emergency power generators.

12 A record of first informer broadcaster certification is to be
13 provided to and remain on file with the State OEM and is to be
14 made available to State and local government agencies.

15 Under the bill, “broadcaster” means senior station management
16 or other technical or senior personnel employed by a broadcasting
17 business or an independent contractor that contracts with a
18 broadcasting business.

19 “Broadcasting business” means a full-power radio broadcasting
20 station, a cable television company, or a television broadcast
21 station, and who conducts business in this State.