

CS/CS/CS/SB 742 — Public Safety Telecommunicators/E911

by Health and Human Services Appropriations Committee; Community Affairs Committee; Health Regulation Committee; and Senator Detert

The bill renames “911 emergency dispatchers” to “911 public safety telecommunicators” and expands the functions they perform related to 911 calls. By October 1, 2012, any person employed as a 911 public safety telecommunicator at a public safety answering point must be certified by the Department of Health (DOH). A public safety agency may employ a 911 public safety telecommunicator trainee for a period not to exceed 12 months under certain conditions.

Certification and recertification requirements for a 911 public safety telecommunicator are outlined in the bill, including fees, training, and requirements for applicants to sit for a competency / proficiency examination administered by the DOH for initial certification after October 1, 2012.

The bill revises an existing grandfather clause for emergency dispatchers to include 911 public safety telecommunicators. Under the grandfather clause, the DOH must establish by rule a procedure for the initial certification of 911 public safety telecommunicators who document 3 years of supervised full-time employment as a 911 public safety telecommunicator or an emergency dispatcher since January 1, 2002. This grandfather clause expires on October 1, 2012. In addition, if a person was employed as a 911 public safety telecommunicator, a sworn state-certified law enforcement officer, or a state-certified firefighter before April 1, 2012, upon passage of the examination, the public safety telecommunication training program requirement is waived for initial certification.

The DOH is required to establish procedures for approval of public safety telecommunication training programs. The bill revises provisions for disciplinary action and penalties against emergency medical personnel to include public safety telecommunicators.

The bill adds dispatching to the list of E911 services and revises the authorized expenditures of the E911 fee, to include the fees collected by the DOH for certification and recertification of 911 public safety telecommunicators.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2010.

Vote: Senate 36-2; House 116-0