

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 296
98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

0921H.02C

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To amend chapter 190, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to the first informer
broadcasters act.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 190, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be
2 known as section 190.260, to read as follows:

**190.260. 1. This section shall be known and may be cited as the "First Informer
2 Broadcasters Act".**

3 **2. As used in this section, the following terms shall mean:**

4 **(1) "Broadcaster", a radio broadcasting station or television broadcasting station**
5 **licensed by the Federal Communications Commission and subject to participation in the**
6 **Emergency Alert System (EAS), which is primarily engaged in and deriving income from**
7 **the business of facilitating speech via over-the-air-communications, both as pure speech**
8 **and commercial speech;**

9 **(2) "Informer", a person who has been certified as a first informer broadcaster**
10 **under this section.**

11 **3. Broadcasters in this state shall, in cooperation with the department of public**
12 **safety, establish a program for training and certifying broadcast engineers and technical**
13 **personnel as first informers.**

14 **4. Any statewide organization or any member of a statewide organization that**
15 **represents broadcasters or any other provider that uses emerging technologies may**
16 **establish a program for training and certifying broadcast engineers and technical**
17 **personnel as first informer broadcasters. Upon completion of the program, broadcasters**
18 **shall receive statewide recognized credentials to certify that such broadcasters are first**

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended
to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

19 **informers. Each program established under this section shall provide training and**
20 **education concerning:**

21 **(1) Restoring, repairing, and resupplying any facilities and equipment of a**
22 **broadcaster in an area affected by an emergency or disaster; and**

23 **(2) The personal safety of a first informer broadcaster in an area affected by an**
24 **emergency or disaster.**

25 **5. To the extent practicable and consistent with not endangering public safety or**
26 **inhibiting recovery efforts, state and local governmental agencies shall allow first informer**
27 **broadcasters access to areas affected by an emergency or disaster for the purposes of**
28 **restoring, repairing, or resupplying any facility or equipment critical to the ability of a**
29 **broadcaster to acquire, produce, and transmit essential emergency or disaster-related**
30 **public information programming including, without limitation, repairing and maintaining**
31 **transmitters and generators, and transporting fuel for generators.**

32 **6. The Missouri Broadcasters Association shall pay the costs of developing and**
33 **implementing the training program.**

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