

HB 1606 -- FIRST INFORMER BROADCASTERS ACT

SPONSOR: Kelley

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness by a vote of 10 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Select Committee on State and Local Government by a vote of 10 to 0.

This bill establishes a program in the Department of Public Safety for training and certifying broadcast engineers and technical personnel as first informer broadcasters in areas affected by emergency or disaster.

The statewide association involved in establishing a program in accordance with this section shall pay the costs of developing and implementing the training program.

This bill is the same as SB 732 (2016).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that it is important that vital information reach people when they need it most. People rely on first informers for receiving information regarding where to go during storms, etc., so first informers need to have access to equipment and have it repaired as needed.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Kelley; Missouri Broadcasters Association; and Curtis Varns, The Networks Of Mid-Missouri.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.