

1 AN ACT concerning safety.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the First
5 Informer Broadcasters Act.

6 Section 5. Definitions.

7 "Broadcaster" means a radio broadcasting station, cable
8 operator, or television broadcasting station primarily engaged
9 in, and deriving income from, the business of facilitating
10 speech via over-the-air communications, both as to pure speech
11 and commercial speech.

12 "First informer broadcaster" means a person who has been
13 certified as a first informer broadcaster pursuant to Section
14 15 of this Act.

15 Section 10. Broadcasters. Broadcasters in this State may,
16 in cooperation with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency
17 and the Illinois Broadcasters Association, or its successor
18 organization, develop comprehensive, coordinated plans for
19 preparing for and responding appropriately to an emergency or
20 disaster.

21 Section 15. First informer broadcasters; training and

1 certification.

2 (a) Any Statewide organization, or any member of a
3 Statewide organization, that represents broadcasters, cable
4 television communications, or any other provider that uses
5 emerging technologies may establish a program for training and
6 certifying broadcast engineers and technical personnel as
7 first informer broadcasters. Each program established pursuant
8 to this subsection must:

9 (i) be consistent with federal law and guidelines;

10 (ii) provide training and education concerning
11 restoring, repairing and resupplying any facilities and
12 equipment of a broadcaster in an area affected by an
13 emergency or disaster; and

14 (iii) provide training and education concerning the
15 personal safety of a first informer broadcaster in an area
16 affected by an emergency or disaster.

17 (b) To the extent practicable and consistent with not
18 endangering public safety or inhibiting recovery efforts,
19 State and local governmental agencies shall allow a first
20 informer broadcaster access to an area affected by an emergency
21 or disaster for the purpose of restoring, repairing, or
22 resupplying any facility or equipment critical to the ability
23 of a broadcaster to acquire, produce, and transmit essential
24 emergency or disaster-related public information programming,
25 including, without limitation, repairing and maintaining
26 transmitters and generators, and transporting fuel for

1 generators.

2 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
3 becoming law.