

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Joint Resolution 2 (Senator Klausmeier)

Finance

Rules and Executive Nominations

Radio Amateurs - Commendation and Encouragement

This joint resolution supports the continued development of the amateur radio service as a public benefit by adopting and promoting regulations that encourage the use of new technologies within the service and make reasonable accommodations for the effective operation of amateur radio from residences, private vehicles, and public areas. The resolution commends radio amateurs for their contributions to technical progress in electronics and for providing emergency radio communications in times of disaster.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Compliance with this joint resolution would not affect State operations or finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Title 47 of the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations state that the basic purpose of the amateur radio service is to provide voluntary, noncommercial radio service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications, to improve the service through rules which provide for advancing skills in both communication and technical phases, and to expand the existing reservoir within the amateur radio service of trained operators, technicians, and electronic experts. The regulations provide for station operation standards, authorized frequency bands, transmitter power standards, and

operator licensing requirements. Licenses are issued upon successful completion of a written exam, for progressively higher levels of proficiency: novice, technician, conditional, general, advanced, and amateur extra.

Background: Amateur radio is a two-way, person-to-person, shortwave radio communication service for noncommercial purposes. It is the only hobby regulated by international treaty and by federal regulation in the U.S. The amateur radio community was responsible for launching the first nongovernmental earth satellite, which now operates to relay VHF signals across continents and oceans. In addition, the amateur radio service has provided continued advancements by pioneering a technique to send communications using reflections from meteor trails and its development of low-cost data transmission by radio.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Legislative Services

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