



## 96TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2009 and 2010

HB5455

Introduced 2/5/2010, by Rep. John E. Bradley

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

20 ILCS 3305/14.5 new

Amends the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act. Creates the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES), within the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, to provide emergency communications service in the State. Requires the Director of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency to appoint a State RACES officer to serve as the point of contact between the Illinois Emergency Management Agency and the Illinois amateur radio community, appoint a Deputy State RACES officer, identify amateur radio operators to staff the State Emergency Operations Center when necessary, and serve other functions. Specifies the duties of the Regional RACES officers. Authorizes the appointment, and specifies the duties, of county and municipal RACES officers. Defines when RACES stations may be activated.

LRB096 19223 JDS 34614 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT  
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning government.

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

4 Section 5. The Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act is  
5 amended by adding Section 14.5 as follows:

6 (20 ILCS 3305/14.5 new)

7 Sec. 14.5. Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES)  
8 program.

9 (a) The Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES)  
10 program is created within the Illinois Emergency Management  
11 Agency to provide emergency communications service in the State  
12 of Illinois.

13 (b) The Director of the Illinois Emergency Management  
14 Agency shall appoint a qualified individual to serve as the  
15 volunteer State RACES Officer, who shall:

16 (1) serve as the point of contact between the Illinois  
17 Emergency Management Agency and the Illinois amateur radio  
18 community;

19 (2) appoint a volunteer Deputy State RACES Officer to  
20 ensure continuity of command and control in the event of  
21 unavailability of the State RACES Officer;

22 (3) identify and appoint 6 qualified amateur radio  
23 operators (3 of whom shall be considered primary operators

1 and 3 of whom shall be considered as secondary or alternate  
2 operators) to staff the State Emergency Operations Center  
3 as communicators when the RACES has been activated for an  
4 emergency or exercise event;

5 (4) appoint 8 volunteer Regional RACES Officers, one  
6 for each of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency  
7 regions;

8 (5) establish suitable training criteria for Regional  
9 RACES Officers and State Emergency Operations Center RACES  
10 Operators;

11 (6) make recommendations to county and municipal  
12 emergency managers regarding suitable training courses for  
13 all enrolled volunteer Illinois RACES operators;

14 (7) develop and distribute a State RACES plan detailing  
15 RACES operations and logistics; and

16 (8) provide the schedule and details of regular  
17 emergency communications exercises designed to ensure that  
18 all RACES operators have adequate experience and training  
19 to perform back-up communications in the event of an  
20 emergency.

21 (c) Each Regional RACES Officer shall:

22 (1) provide emergency or exercise amateur radio  
23 communications assistance to the Illinois Emergency  
24 Management Agency Regional Coordinator as needed;

25 (2) serve as the amateur radio point of contact between  
26 the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Regional

1 Coordinator and the county RACES programs in that region;

2 and

3 (3) work with local emergency managers to recruit and  
4 train suitable county and municipal RACES officers.

5 (d) In each Illinois county or municipality that provides  
6 its own emergency management agency, the emergency manager  
7 wishing to participate in the Illinois RACES program shall be  
8 responsible for identifying and appointing a suitably trained  
9 amateur radio operator who holds holding a valid General class  
10 (or higher) FCC-issued amateur radio license to serve as the  
11 county or municipal RACES Officer, who shall:

12 (1) provide RACES communications services in times of  
13 emergency and during exercise events; and

14 (2) be responsible for enrolling and managing  
15 volunteer amateur radio operators in the county RACES  
16 organization in accordance with the credentialing and  
17 membership requirements of the respective county or  
18 municipal emergency management agency.

19 (e) The State Emergency Operations Center RACES station  
20 shall be activated only by the Director of the Illinois  
21 Emergency Management Agency or his or her designee. Regional  
22 RACES stations shall be activated only by the Director of the  
23 Illinois Emergency Management Agency or his or her designee.  
24 County or municipal RACES groups shall be activated only by the  
25 responsible county or municipal emergency manager.