

House State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs

03/12/2026 Upon Adjournment

HB26-1252 Updates to State Emer Response Depts & Divs

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Randall Buxton Amend themselves	<p>My name is Randy Buxton. I live in La Plata County. I am a member of the Colorado DHSEM Auxiliary Communications (AuxComm) Unit and am writing in my personal capacity.</p> <p>HB26-1252 proposes to move the AuxComm Unit from the DHSEM Office of Emergency Management to the Office of Public Safety Communications. I am writing to ask that the bill be amended by removing the amendment to CRS 24-33.5-705.5 (1)(c) thereby retaining the placement of the Auxcomm unit within the Office of Emergency Management.</p> <p>The AuxComm Unit was created by statute in 2016 as a unit of the Colorado Office of Emergency Management (OEM) within the DHSEM. The members of the unit, all of whom are volunteers, are skilled radio communicators tasked with providing support to the State and it's citizens during times of disaster and other emergencies. The natural fit for the AuxComm unit is in the state OEM, as it was at it's creation.</p> <p>The Office of Public Safety Communications (OPSC) is the state entity whose primary responsibility is to maintain the statewide radio communications system, known as the Digital Trunked Radio System (DTRS.) The majority of personnel in this office are radio technicians and do not respond to emergencies and disasters in the state.</p> <p>Since October 2025 the AuxComm Unit, under the direction of the DHSEM Incident Management Unit, which is another branch of the</p>

	<p>Office of Emergency Management, has implemented a new leadership team of volunteers that have worked to expand the roles, responsibilities, and training of it's volunteers. This work is solely for the benefit of the citizens of the State during times of disasters and other emergencies.</p> <p>The language in this bill to move the AuxComm Unit from the Office of Emergency Management to the Office of Public Safety Communications will unnecessarily and adversely affect the viability and administration of the unit with it being overseen by an office that has no current business dealing with emergency response or management.</p> <p>Thank you for considering my comments.</p> <p>Sincerely, Randall Buxton</p>
--	---