

Ed Hude - SB 493

- *There are more than 717,000 federally licensed amateur radio operators in the U.S.*
- *There are more than 21,000 amateur radio operators in the State of Michigan. Amateur radio is sometimes called "Ham Radio".*
- *These individuals were all required to take and pass an FCC license exam which consists of radio theory, rules and regulations and operational expertise.*
- *Nearly 5000 of these "hams" in Michigan are members of the ARRL (American Radio Relay League), the national association for amateur radio.*
- *Michigan hams are organized at the county level, at the MSP regional level and at the state level.*
- *Training across the state is uniform to assist in mutual aid scenarios.*
- *In 2013, the amateurs of Michigan contributed over 120,000 hours of volunteer time to their fellow citizens.*
- *These volunteer hours are valued at approximately \$2.7 million.*
- *Michigan hams participate in emergency preparedness activities as well as short, medium and long range message handling activities.*
- *To see the value of this message handling activity, imagine how we would communicate from one side of the state to the other if the telephones and internet were not working.*
- *Amateur radio is different from other communication systems in that it does not require any infrastructure to operate. Simple antennas are needed to be able to do this, but no wires are needed to interconnect between stations.*
- *We can send email without the internet and that allows us to send email out of a disaster area to a point where internet access is available and the message goes on its way via the internet.*
- *Amateur Radio in Michigan is part of the Michigan State Police Department of Homeland Security's emergency preparedness plan.*
- *There are two amateur radio stations located in the State Emergency Operating Center (EOC).*

- In most cases, amateur radio operators own their own equipment and in times of emergency readily offer the use of their equipment and their talents to their communities free of charge.
- The entire state of Michigan is covered with a network of hundreds of repeaters for amateur communication. This large investment in equipment is freely made available for use in emergencies.
- *Skywarn storm spotting (not to be confused with "Storm Chasing", which is a dangerous activity and is discouraged in our programs) is used to provide important real-time information to the National Weather Service which is used to generate appropriate watches and warnings for the public.*
- *Many local amateur radio groups participate in periodic testing of the tornado sirens in their communities.*
- Amateurs routinely provide communication for various community activities such as bike runs, marathons, festivals, parades, etc.
- *Antenna requirements vary according to the distance between two points and frequency selection. Antenna height is important.*
- *This is why we are asking to have the federal regulations codified into Michigan law as it will help to ensure that local communities are aware of the federal preemption, thus helping to prevent over-regulation which could lead to costly litigation.*
- *There are 30 states that have passed legislation that is similar to what we are requesting. Those states include Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin.*
- *This is common sense legislation. It costs nothing but will potentially save many tens of thousands of dollars spent in court to appeal a restriction that was issued contrary to Federal regulation.*
- *This legislation does not target nor affect CC&R's or Homeowner Association rules.*

February, 2014

Michigan Amateur Radio Public Service Corps 2013

Emergency Preparedness

Month	Hours
January	4762
February	7597
March	6780
April	10390
May	10762
June	9475
July	9478
August	9593
September	3176
October	3441
November	8875
December	7339
Total:	91668

Public Service

Month	Hours
January	1410
February	2477
March	2647
April	2877
May	2446
June	2063
July	3333
August	2324
September	2428
October	2560
November	2483
December	3750
Total:	30798

Total Hours	122466
2012 Value/Hour*	\$ 22.12
Total Value	\$ 2,708,948

*www.independentsector.org/volunteer_time



- Alaska
- California
- Florida
- Idaho
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Kansas
- Louisiana
- Maine
- Massachusetts
- Mississippi
- Missouri
- Montana
- Nevada
- New Hampshire
- New Mexico
- North Carolina
- Ohio
- Oklahoma
- Oregon
- Pennsylvania
- Tennessee
- Texas
- Utah
- Vermont
- Virginia
- Washington
- West Virginia
- Wisconsin
- Wyoming

**States that have codified
PRB-1 into State Law**

