
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2787

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2010 Regular Session

By House Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness (originally sponsored by Representatives Hurst, Roach, Simpson, Miloscia, Orwall, Sullivan, Hasegawa, Hudgins, Upthegrove, White, Chase, and Nelson)

READ FIRST TIME 01/28/10.

1 AN ACT Relating to Green river emergency flooding preparedness and
2 response; adding a new section to chapter 38.52 RCW; making an
3 appropriation; and declaring an emergency.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 38.52 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 (1) The legislature finds that recent flooding events over the last
8 several years have put citizens and businesses in devastating
9 situations that have resulted in extreme economic loss. This is
10 particularly acute in the Green river watershed where the army corps of
11 engineers has found the Howard Hanson dam to be structurally deficient.
12 While it is important for the state to provide public safety and
13 emergency response during an emergency resulting from a natural
14 disaster, it is equally important to provide emergency preparedness and
15 disaster mitigation information prior to an emergency, and recovery and
16 disaster mitigation help after an emergency; all of which will
17 contribute to making the public more prepared during an emergency
18 response.

1 (2) Washington state's topography, geography, location, and history
2 show that certain areas of the state are at particular risk to both
3 natural disasters and human-caused disasters. The economic impact from
4 the 2007 flood disasters alone in Washington were estimated at over
5 five hundred million dollars. Current conditions at the Howard Hanson
6 dam may cause overflows into the Green river valley area that greatly
7 exceed channel capacity. Critical flood control levees may overtop and
8 may weaken from saturation. Sudden changes in flood conditions are
9 possible, especially in levee-protected areas. These changes may
10 include rapidly rising water, Green river flooding, widespread
11 inundation, road closures, utility disruptions, loss of homes, and the
12 loss and closure of many businesses in the Renton, Tukwila, Auburn, and
13 Kent areas located in the Green river valley. The Green river valley
14 is one of the largest warehouse areas on the west coast. Severe
15 flooding has the potential to damage businesses throughout the state
16 and the western United States. In response, Washington state and local
17 governments have implemented all hazards emergency management and
18 disaster response plans. However, recent studies have revealed the
19 lack of a secure funding source that impedes the Green river valley's
20 ability to fully integrate and coordinate comprehensive disaster
21 preparedness planning.

22 (3) Recognizing that all disasters are local disasters, the
23 legislature intends to strengthen emergency response, mitigation,
24 preparation, and coordination by establishing a source of funding for
25 flood control and relocation of those private citizens and businesses
26 that may be displaced during a flood disaster.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The sum of twenty-five million dollars,
28 or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the
29 biennium ending June 30, 2011, from the state building construction
30 account to the Washington military department, working in cooperation
31 with the flood division of the department of ecology, the King county
32 flood control district, and other respective local governments, as
33 appropriate, to participate in flood hazard mitigation and response
34 projects for the Green river valley area that are not eligible for
35 federal assistance. For those projects eligible for federal
36 assistance, this funding may be used as the nonfederal cost share for
37 projects.

1 (2) The Washington military department shall administer the Green
2 river flood assistance funds and establish procedures for its
3 administration in consultation with the Green river subcabinet. The
4 Washington military department shall:

5 (a) Use no more than five million dollars of the funds appropriated
6 for: (i) Relocation costs (including, but not limited to, land
7 acquisition) of public facilities and infrastructure, (ii) relocation
8 costs of citizens and businesses that are displaced by Green river
9 flooding conditions, and (iii) prevention, emergency response,
10 mitigation, preparation, coordination, and recovery costs; and

11 (b) Use no more than twenty million dollars of the funds
12 appropriated for costs associated with levy repair and strengthening,
13 consistent with the priorities established by the King county flood
14 district.

15 (3) Projects funded under this section shall include, but need not
16 be limited to, projects that will promote neighborhood level public
17 education on disaster preparedness.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act is necessary for the immediate
19 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
20 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
21 immediately.

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