
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1147

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2021 Regular Session

By House Community & Economic Development (originally sponsored by Representatives Ryu, Klippert, Pollet, Goodman, and Rule)

READ FIRST TIME 02/12/21.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating the Washington state office of
2 resiliency; adding a new chapter to Title 43 RCW; and making an
3 appropriation.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Washington state residents have been
6 increasingly impacted by natural disasters such as floods,
7 landslides, wildfires, earthquakes, and the COVID-19 pandemic and
8 they continue to be at risk from these and other natural disasters,
9 with communities of color and vulnerable populations
10 disproportionately impacted. The legislature finds that it is
11 critical to better prepare Washington for disasters to mitigate the
12 impacts of natural disasters with coordinated resiliency strategies.
13 The legislature further finds a resilient Washington increases
14 quality of life for Washingtonians while every one dollar spent on
15 mitigation saves six dollars spent on recovery. To address this
16 critical need, the legislature intends to implement a statewide
17 resiliency program for the benefit of all Washingtonians while
18 conserving expenditures by both public and private sectors.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1)(a) The governor shall develop and
20 administer a statewide disaster resiliency program. The program may

1 be developed in conjunction with a climate resiliency program. The
2 program must include:

3 (i) Methods for ensuring ongoing coordination of state and local
4 resiliency and response activities, including:

5 (A) Developing, administering, tracking, and communicating
6 progress of overall disaster resiliency efforts;

7 (B) Coordinating funding to maximize federal, state, local, and
8 private investments;

9 (C) Serving as a public and private resiliency resource center;
10 and

11 (D) Enhancing interagency collaboration, education, and outreach
12 programs;

13 (ii) A strategy for addressing the impacts of natural disasters,
14 including flooding, on communities and ecosystems, including:

15 (A) Developing, coordinating, and communicating resiliency
16 initiatives and projects across state agencies and local governments;

17 (B) Conducting policy research and recommendations related to
18 enhancing resiliency;

19 (C) Coordinating research, data collection, and analysis; and

20 (D) Researching economic tools to address resiliency; and

21 (iii) Support functions to agencies, departments, tribes, and
22 other stakeholders to develop natural climate resiliency solutions
23 that improve the resiliency of the state's waters, forests, and other
24 vital ecosystems to the impacts of climate change, and increase their
25 carbon pollution reduction capacity through sequestration, storage,
26 and overall ecosystem integrity. This includes programs, activities,
27 or projects that:

28 (A) Restore and protect estuaries, fisheries, and marine
29 shoreline habitats, and prepare for sea level rise;

30 (B) Increase the ability to remediate and adapt to the impacts of
31 ocean acidification;

32 (C) Reduce flood risk and restore natural floodplain ecological
33 function;

34 (D) Increase the sustainable supply of water and improve aquatic
35 habitat, including groundwater mapping and modeling;

36 (E) Improve infrastructure for treating stormwater from
37 previously developed areas within an urban growth boundary designated
38 under chapter 36.70A RCW, with a preference given to projects that
39 use green stormwater infrastructure;

1 (F) Either preserve or increase, or both, carbon sequestration
2 and storage benefits in forests and agricultural soils;

3 (G) Increase forest and community resiliency to wildfire in the
4 face of increased seasonal temperatures and drought; or

5 (H) Improve forest health and reduce vulnerability to changes in
6 hydrology, insect infestation, and other impacts of climate change.

7 (b) For the projects listed in (a)(iii) of this subsection,
8 priority must be given to projects that implement community-scale
9 hazard mitigation activities that use nature-based solutions.

10 (2) For purposes of this section, "resiliency" means the ability
11 to prepare, mitigate, plan for, withstand, recover from, and more
12 successfully adapt to adverse events and changing conditions, and
13 reorganize in an equitable manner that results in a new and better
14 condition.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The sum of \$250,000, or as much thereof as
16 may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30,
17 2022, and \$250,000, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is
18 appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, from the
19 general fund to the office of the governor for the purposes of this
20 act.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Sections 1 and 2 of this act constitute a
22 new chapter in Title 43 RCW.

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