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**HOUSE BILL 1001**

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**State of Washington**

**69th Legislature**

**2025 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Abbarno and Waters

Prefiled 12/02/24.

1 AN ACT Relating to capital projects for the provision of fire  
2 protection services; and adding a new chapter to Title 43 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The definitions in this section apply  
5 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires  
6 otherwise.

7 (1) "Department" means the department of commerce.

8 (2) "Fire protection services capital project" means a project of  
9 a local government for the planning, acquisition, construction,  
10 repair, reconstruction, replacement, rehabilitation, or improvement  
11 of a facility providing fire protection services.

12 (3) "Local governments" means cities, towns, counties, special  
13 purpose districts, port districts, and any other municipal  
14 corporations or quasi-municipal corporations in the state providing  
15 fire protection services.

16 (4) "Rural county" means a county with a population density of  
17 fewer than 100 persons per square mile or a county smaller than 225  
18 square miles, as determined by the office of financial management  
19 pursuant to RCW 43.62.035.

1        NEW SECTION.

2        **Sec. 2.**

3        (1) The department must establish a  
4 competitive grant program to award funding to local governments in  
5 rural counties for fire protection services capital projects.

6        (2) (a) The department must establish a committee to develop the  
7 grant program criteria and process for prioritization of  
8 applications. The committee must be composed of no less than one  
9 representative each from the department, a fire protection district,  
10 a county, and a city.

11        (b) The department must consider, at a minimum and in any order,  
12 the following factors in prioritizing projects:

13        (i) The insurance services office fire rating for the  
14 jurisdiction providing the fire protection services in the facility;

15        (ii) The extent to which the project leverages other funds;

16        (iii) The ability of the local government providing the fire  
17 protection services to levy local resources;

18        (iv) Whether the project is critical in nature and would affect  
19 the health and safety of the people in the community of service;

20        (v) The extent to which the project is ready to proceed to  
21 construction;

22        (vi) Whether the project is located in a distressed area as  
23 defined in RCW 43.168.020; and

24        (vii) Whether the project consolidates or regionalizes services.

25        (3) (a) Funds awarded under this section may be given only after  
26 private or public match funds are committed. Private or public match  
27 funds may consist of cash, equipment, land, buildings, or like-kind.  
28 In determining the level of match required, the department shall take  
29 into consideration the financial need of the applicant and the  
30 economic conditions of the location of the proposed facility.

31        (b) The maximum amount of total funding that the department may  
32 provide for any jurisdiction is \$2,000,000 per biennium.

33        (4) To ensure a grant under this section primarily serves the  
34 public interest and benefits the public, contracts for grants  
35 authorized under this section must include provisions that the  
36 capital improvements be held by the grantee for a specified period of  
37 time appropriate to the amount of the grant and that facilities be  
38 used for the express purpose of the grant. If the grantee is found to  
39 be out of compliance with provisions of the contract, the grantee  
shall repay to the state general fund the principal amount of the  
grant plus interest calculated at the rate of interest on state of

1 Washington general obligation bonds issued most closely to the date  
2 of authorization of the grant.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) By November 1, 2026, and each year  
4 thereafter, the department must develop and submit a report regarding  
5 the fire protection services capital projects grant program to the  
6 office of financial management and the legislature. The report must  
7 include:

8 (a) The total number of applications and amount of funding  
9 requested for fire protection services capital projects;

10 (b) A list and description of projects approved in the preceding  
11 fiscal year with project scores against the department's  
12 prioritization criteria;

13 (c) The total amount of grant disbursements made in the preceding  
14 fiscal year; and

15 (d) The total amount of funds obligated and timing of when the  
16 funds were obligated in the preceding fiscal year.

17 (2) The department may gather data from the eligible applicants  
18 awarded the grant funding in order to develop the report.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Sections 1 through 3 of this act  
20 constitute a new chapter in Title 43 RCW.

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