
SENATE BILL 5926

State of Washington 54th Legislature 1995 Regular Session

By Senators Owen, McDonald, Finkbeiner, West and A. Anderson

Read first time 02/15/95. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to emergency response services; amending RCW
2 76.04.145; adding new sections to chapter 76.04 RCW; and creating a new
3 section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that it is in the best
6 interest of the state to lease fire suppression equipment, supplies,
7 and services from private contractors whenever possible in responding
8 to incidents involving wildfires on public lands. It is the intent of
9 the legislature to encourage the department of natural resources to
10 lease kitchen, shower, and other fire suppression equipment, supplies,
11 and services from private contractors whenever possible as allowed in
12 RCW 76.04.015(4)(b).

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 76.04 RCW
14 to read as follows:

15 (1) The department shall, by July 1, 1995, establish a list of fire
16 suppression equipment, supplies, and services provided by the
17 department so that the cost by unit or category can be determined and

1 can be compared to the expense of leasing comparable equipment,
2 supplies, and services from private contractors.

3 (2) The department shall establish a roster of contractors willing
4 and able to provide equipment, supplies, and services for emergency
5 services as needed for emergency response by the department.

6 (3) The department shall establish specifications and a procedure
7 for soliciting bids on costs of leasing fire suppression equipment,
8 supplies, and services from private contractors for comparison with the
9 costs established in subsection (1) of this section.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 76.04 RCW
11 to read as follows:

12 Before constructing or purchasing any equipment for emergency
13 services, the department shall compare the per use cost of the
14 equipment to be purchased or constructed with the per use cost of
15 leasing the equipment. If leasing the equipment is more cost-
16 efficient, the department may not construct or purchase the equipment
17 but shall lease the equipment from the lowest responsive bidder on the
18 roster.

19 **Sec. 4.** RCW 76.04.145 and 1986 c 100 s 15 are each amended to read
20 as follows:

21 (1) There is hereby created a forest fire advisory board,
22 consisting of (~~seven~~) eight members who shall represent private and
23 public forest landowners, private contractors of fire suppression
24 equipment, supplies, and services, and other interested segments of the
25 public. The members shall be appointed by the commissioner of public
26 lands and shall serve at the commissioner's pleasure, without
27 compensation.

28 (2) The duties of the forest fire advisory board shall be strictly
29 advisory and shall include, but not necessarily be limited to:

30 (a) Reviewing forest fire prevention and suppression policies of
31 the department;

32 (b) Monitoring expenditures from and recoveries for the landowner
33 contingency forest fire suppression account;

34 (c) Recommending appropriate assessments and allocations for
35 establishment and replenishment of the account based upon the
36 proportionate expenditures necessitated by participating landowner
37 operations in western and eastern Washington;

1 (d) Recommending to the department appropriate rules or amendments
2 to existing rules and reviewing nonemergency rules affecting the
3 protection of forest lands from fire, including reasonable alternative
4 means or procedures for the abatement, isolation, or reduction of
5 forest fire hazards.

6 (3) Except where an emergency exists, all rules concerning matters
7 listed in subsection (2)(d) of this section shall be adopted by the
8 department after consultation with the forest fire advisory board.

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