
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6036

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2018 Regular Session

By Senate Financial Institutions & Insurance (originally sponsored by Senators Mullet, Carlyle, Zeiger, Van De Wege, Hunt, Chase, Saldaña, and Kuderer; by request of Insurance Commissioner)

READ FIRST TIME 01/15/18.

1 AN ACT Relating to the creation of a work group to study and make
2 recommendations on natural disaster mitigation and resiliency
3 activities; and adding new sections to chapter 48.02 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 48.02
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 Residents of this state have been impacted by natural disasters
8 such as floods, landslides, wildfires, and earthquakes and continue
9 to be at risk from these and other natural disasters. In 2016,
10 insured losses from natural disasters in the United States totaled
11 almost twenty-four billion dollars. In 2015, this state's wildfire
12 season was the largest in Washington state history, burning more than
13 one million acres and costing more than two hundred fifty-three
14 million dollars. In 2016, almost two hundred ninety-four thousand
15 acres burned in Washington state and there were more than four
16 hundred thirty national flood insurance program (nfip) claims filed,
17 totaling over seven million dollars. It is critical that more be done
18 to better prepare this state for disasters and to put in place
19 strategies to mitigate the impacts of the disasters. To address this
20 critical need, the legislature is creating a work group that will
21 review disaster mitigation and preparation projects in other states

1 and those currently being done in this state and make recommendations
2 for how this state's efforts to mitigate the impacts of natural
3 disasters can be expanded and coordinated and whether or not an
4 ongoing disaster resiliency program should be created.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 48.02
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 A working group to study and make recommendations on natural
8 disaster and resiliency activities is hereby created. The working
9 group membership shall be composed of:

10 (1) The insurance commissioner or his or her designee, who shall
11 be the chair of the working group;

12 (2) One member from each of the four major caucuses of the
13 legislature. The president of the senate shall appoint one member
14 from each of the two largest caucuses of the senate. The speaker of
15 the house of representatives shall appoint one member from each of
16 the two largest caucuses of the house of representatives. Legislative
17 members of the working group are reimbursed for travel expenses in
18 accordance with RCW 44.04.120;

19 (3) A representative from the governor's resilient Washington
20 work group;

21 (4) A representative from the Washington state association of
22 counties;

23 (5) A representative from the association of Washington cities;

24 (6) A representative from the state building code council;

25 (7) The supervisor of the department of natural resources or his
26 or her designee;

27 (8) The director of the Washington state military department or
28 his or her designee;

29 (9) Two representatives from the property and casualty insurance
30 industry to be selected by the office of the insurance commissioner;

31 (10) The director of the department of ecology or his or her
32 designee;

33 (11) The superintendent of public instruction or his or her
34 designee;

35 (12) A representative from the Washington association of building
36 officials; and

37 (13) The director of the department of commerce or his or her
38 designee.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 48.02
2 RCW to read as follows:
3 (1) The working group will engage in the following activities:
4 (a) Review disaster mitigation and resiliency activities being
5 done in this state by public and private entities;
6 (b) Review disaster mitigation and resiliency activities being
7 done in other states and at the federal level including how other
8 states fund their risk mitigation activities and programs;
9 (c) Review information on uptake in this state for disaster-
10 related insurance, such as flood and earthquake;
11 (d) Review information on how other states are coordinating
12 disaster mitigation and resiliency work and the work of entities such
13 as the California earthquake authority;
14 (e) Make recommendations to the legislature and the office of the
15 insurance commissioner on:
16 (i) Whether this state should create an ongoing disaster
17 resiliency program;
18 (ii) What activities the program should engage in;
19 (iii) How the program should coordinate with state agencies and
20 other entities engaged in disaster mitigation and resiliency work;
21 (iv) Where the program should be housed; and
22 (v) How the program should be funded;
23 (f) Invite at their discretion other agencies and stakeholders to
24 participate in specific topics or subcommittees.
25 (2) The working group shall meet during the 2018 interim and make
26 their recommendations to the legislature by December 1, 2018.

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