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HOUSE BILL 2624

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State of Washington                      52nd Legislature                      1992 Regular Session

By Representatives Orr, Mitchell, Wood, Belcher, R. Meyers, Anderson, Prince, Chandler, Wineberry, Bray, Paris and R. King

Read first time 01/22/92. Referred to Committee on State Government.

1            AN ACT Relating to mobilization of fire service resources; and  
2 adding a new chapter to Title 38 RCW.

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

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

7            (1) "Director" means the director of the department of community  
8 development.

9            (2) "State fire marshal" means the director of fire protection  
10 services.

11            (3) "Fire chief" includes the chief officer of a statutorily  
12 authorized fire agency serving a jurisdiction, or the fire chief's  
13 authorized representative. Also included are the department of natural

1 resources fire control chief, and the department of natural resources  
2 regional managers.

3 (4) "Jurisdiction" means the state, county, city, fire district,  
4 port fire fighting units, or other public agencies covered by this  
5 chapter.

6 (5) "Mobilization" means that fire fighting resources beyond those  
7 available through existing agreements will be requested and, when  
8 available, sent to fight a fire that has or soon will exceed the  
9 available local resources. During a large scale fire emergency,  
10 mobilization includes redistribution of either regional or state-wide  
11 fire fighting resources, or both, to either direct fire fighting  
12 assignments or to assignment in communities where the fire fighting  
13 resources are exceeded. This chapter shall not reduce or suspend the  
14 authority or responsibility of the department of natural resources  
15 under chapter 76.04 RCW.

16 (6) "Mutual aid" means emergency interagency assistance provided  
17 without compensation under an agreement between jurisdictions under  
18 chapter 39.34 RCW.

19 (7) Regions shall be established as the following:

20 (a) Northwest region - Whatcom, Skagit, Snohomish, San Juan, and  
21 Island counties;

22 (b) Northeast region - Okanogan, Ferry, Stevens, Pend Oreille,  
23 Spokane, and Lincoln counties;

24 (c) Olympic region - Clallam and Jefferson counties;

25 (d) South Puget Sound region - Kitsap, Mason, King, and Pierce  
26 counties;

27 (e) Southeast region - Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas, Grant, Adams,  
28 Whitman, Yakima, Klickitat, Benton, Franklin, Walla Walla, Columbia,  
29 Garfield, and Asotin counties;

1 (f) Central region - Grays Harbor, Thurston, Pacific, and Lewis  
2 counties; and

3 (g) Southwest region - Wahkiakum, Cowlitz, Clark, and Skamania  
4 counties, or as adjusted by the director.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** Because of the existing and increasing  
6 possibility of the occurrence of disastrous fires of unprecedented size  
7 and destructiveness, and in order to ensure that the preparations of  
8 this state are adequate to deal with these disasters, to ensure the  
9 administration of state and federal programs providing disaster relief  
10 to individuals, state agencies, local agencies, and generally to  
11 protect the public peace, health, and safety, and to preserve the lives  
12 and property of the people of the state, it is hereby declared to be  
13 necessary:

14 (1) To provide the policy and organizational structure for the  
15 large scale mobilization of fire fighting resources in the state  
16 through the creation of the Washington state fire services mobilization  
17 plan;

18 (2) To confer upon the director of community development the powers  
19 provided herein; and

20 (3) To provide a means for reimbursement to fire jurisdictions that  
21 incur expenses when mobilized by the director under the Washington  
22 state fire mobilization plan.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The director may employ personnel  
24 and make those expenditures within the appropriation therefor, or from  
25 other funds made available for purposes of the Washington state fire  
26 services mobilization plan, as may be necessary to carry out the  
27 purposes of this chapter.

1 (2) The state fire marshal shall develop and maintain the  
2 Washington state fire services mobilization plan, which shall include  
3 the procedures to be used during fire emergencies for coordinating  
4 local fire jurisdiction resources, as necessary, and the resources of  
5 regional and state fire jurisdictions.

6 (3) The state fire marshal shall work cooperatively with the  
7 department of natural resources fire chief to coordinate the activities  
8 of all organizations for fire mobilization within the state, and shall  
9 have the additional authority, duties, and responsibilities authorized  
10 by this chapter.

11 (4) The state fire marshal shall serve as the state fire resources  
12 coordinator when the Washington state fire services mobilization plan  
13 is invoked.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** There is created the state fire defense  
15 board comprised of the director of fire protection services, who will  
16 chair the board, the department of natural resources fire control  
17 chief, the assistant director of the department of community  
18 development emergency management division, and regional fire resources  
19 coordinators. The state fire defense board shall advise the director  
20 regarding the state fire mobilization plan.

21 (1) There is created the regional fire defense board. The regional  
22 fire defense boards shall be comprised of one representative from each  
23 county, appointed by the director from recommendations submitted by  
24 local fire organizations within the county. Board members will serve  
25 staggered, three-year terms. Board members will have one vote.  
26 Members of each regional board will select a chairperson and secretary  
27 as officers. The director of fire protection services or a designee  
28 will serve as a member of each regional fire defense board. The  
29 department of natural resources fire control chief shall appoint a

1 representative from each department of natural resources region to  
2 serve as a member of each regional fire defense board. Each regional  
3 fire defense board will select the regional fire resources coordinator  
4 for that region. The fire resources coordinator serves at the pleasure  
5 of the regional fire defense board. Regional fire defense boards will  
6 develop regional fire service plans that include provisions for  
7 organized fire agencies to respond across municipal, county, or  
8 regional boundaries. Each regional fire defense board will develop and  
9 implement the intergovernmental agreements required to implement these  
10 plans.

11 (2) In order to implement the Washington state fire services  
12 mobilization plan, the director, in cooperation with the fire  
13 protection policy board, may adopt and amend rules under chapter 34.05  
14 RCW setting forth the duties and responsibilities of the following:

15 (a) The state fire marshal;

16 (b) The assistant director of the department of community  
17 development emergency management;

18 (c) The Washington state fire defense board; and

19 (d) The regional fire defense boards.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The Washington state fire mobilization  
21 account is created as a separate account in the state treasury. All  
22 receipts from legislative appropriations shall be deposited into the  
23 account. Expenditures from the account may be used only for  
24 reimbursement of expenses caused by the mobilization of fire fighting  
25 resources. Only the state treasurer or the treasurer's designee may  
26 authorize expenditures from the account.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Each year the director shall prepare a  
28 request for appropriation to the Washington state fire mobilization

1 account those moneys necessary to reimburse emergency fire suppression  
2 costs incurred under sections 1 through 3 of this act.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Sections 1 through 6 of this act shall  
4 constitute a new chapter in Title 38 RCW.