
HOUSE BILL 2791

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1992 Regular Session

By Representatives Jacobsen, Nelson, May, Fraser, Bray, Valle, Paris, Winsley and Pruitt

Read first time 01/28/92. Referred to Committee on State Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to improving the state's earthquake readiness;
2 reenacting and amending RCW 38.52.030; adding a new section to chapter
3 38.52 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that: The
6 majority of the state is vulnerable to severe earthquakes capable of
7 inflicting much destruction and loss of life; the state is not fully
8 prepared for severe earthquakes; and prudent preparations can
9 significantly reduce damage and casualties as well as enhancing
10 postquake recovery. The legislature further finds that preparatory
11 measures are well defined and understood but constitute a
12 comprehensive, multiyear program for implementation, and that a focal
13 point in the state for earthquake preparation policy and programs is
14 needed but is currently lacking.

1 **Sec. 2.** RCW 38.52.030 and 1991 c 322 s 20 and 1991 c 54 s 2 are
2 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

3 (1) The director may employ such personnel and may make such
4 expenditures within the appropriation therefor, or from other funds
5 made available for purposes of emergency management, as may be
6 necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter.

7 (2) The director, subject to the direction and control of the
8 governor, shall be responsible to the governor for carrying out the
9 program for emergency management of this state. The director shall
10 coordinate the activities of all organizations for emergency management
11 within the state, and shall maintain liaison with and cooperate with
12 emergency management agencies and organizations of other states and of
13 the federal government, and shall have such additional authority,
14 duties, and responsibilities authorized by this chapter, as may be
15 prescribed by the governor.

16 (3) The director shall develop and maintain a comprehensive, all-
17 hazard emergency plan for the state which shall include an analysis of
18 the natural and man-caused hazards which could affect the state of
19 Washington, and shall include the procedures to be used during
20 emergencies for coordinating local resources, as necessary, and the
21 resources of all state agencies, departments, commissions, and boards.
22 The comprehensive emergency management plan shall direct the department
23 in times of state emergency to administer and manage the state's
24 emergency operations center. This will include representation from all
25 appropriate state agencies and be available as a single point of
26 contact for the authorizing of state resources or actions, including
27 emergency permits. The comprehensive, all-hazard emergency plan
28 authorized under this subsection may not include preparation for
29 emergency evacuation or relocation of residents in anticipation of

1 nuclear attack. This plan shall be known as the comprehensive
2 emergency management plan.

3 (4) In accordance with the comprehensive emergency management plans
4 and the programs for the emergency management of this state, the
5 director shall procure supplies and equipment, institute training
6 programs and public information programs, and shall take all other
7 preparatory steps, including the partial or full mobilization of
8 emergency management organizations in advance of actual disaster, to
9 insure the furnishing of adequately trained and equipped forces of
10 emergency management personnel in time of need.

11 (5) The director shall make such studies and surveys of the
12 industries, resources, and facilities in this state as may be necessary
13 to ascertain the capabilities of the state for emergency management,
14 and shall plan for the most efficient emergency use thereof.

15 (6) The director may appoint a communications coordinating
16 committee consisting of six to eight persons with the director, or his
17 or her designee, as chairman thereof. Three of the members shall be
18 appointed from qualified, trained and experienced telephone
19 communications administrators or engineers actively engaged in such
20 work within the state of Washington at the time of appointment, and
21 three of the members shall be appointed from qualified, trained and
22 experienced radio communication administrators or engineers actively
23 engaged in such work within the state of Washington at the time of
24 appointment. This committee shall advise the director on all aspects
25 of the communications and warning systems and facilities operated or
26 controlled under the provisions of this chapter.

27 (7) The director, through the state enhanced 911 coordinator, shall
28 coordinate and facilitate implementation and operation of a state-wide
29 enhanced 911 emergency communications network.

1 (8) The director shall appoint a state coordinator of search and
2 rescue operations to coordinate those state resources, services and
3 facilities (other than those for which the state director of
4 aeronautics is directly responsible) requested by political
5 subdivisions in support of search and rescue operations, and on request
6 to maintain liaison with and coordinate the resources, services, and
7 facilities of political subdivisions when more than one political
8 subdivision is engaged in joint search and rescue operations.

9 (9) The director, subject to the direction and control of the
10 governor, shall prepare and administer a state program for emergency
11 assistance to individuals within the state who are victims of a natural
12 or man-made disaster, as defined by RCW 38.52.010(6). Such program may
13 be integrated into and coordinated with disaster assistance plans and
14 programs of the federal government which provide to the state, or
15 through the state to any political subdivision thereof, services,
16 equipment, supplies, materials, or funds by way of gift, grant, or loan
17 for purposes of assistance to individuals affected by a disaster.
18 Further, such program may include, but shall not be limited to, grants,
19 loans, or gifts of services, equipment, supplies, materials, or funds
20 of the state, or any political subdivision thereof, to individuals who,
21 as a result of a disaster, are in need of assistance and who meet
22 standards of eligibility for disaster assistance established by the
23 department of social and health services: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That
24 nothing herein shall be construed in any manner inconsistent with the
25 provisions of Article VIII, section 5 or section 7 of the Washington
26 state Constitution.

27 (10) The director shall appoint a state coordinator for radioactive
28 and hazardous waste emergency response programs. The coordinator shall
29 consult with the state radiation control officer in matters relating to
30 radioactive materials. The duties of the state coordinator for

1 radioactive and hazardous waste emergency response programs shall
2 include:

3 (a) Assessing the current needs and capabilities of state and local
4 radioactive and hazardous waste emergency response teams on an ongoing
5 basis;

6 (b) Coordinating training programs for state and local officials
7 for the purpose of updating skills relating to emergency response;

8 (c) Utilizing appropriate training programs such as those offered
9 by the federal emergency management agency, the department of
10 transportation and the environmental protection agency; and

11 (d) Undertaking other duties in this area that are deemed
12 appropriate by the director.

13 (11) The director shall promote and supervise improvement of the
14 state's earthquake preparedness.

15 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. A new section is added to chapter 38.52 RCW
16 to read as follows:

17 (1) The state earthquake preparedness committee is created and is
18 chaired by the director. The committee, in addition to the director,
19 shall consist of the commissioner of public lands or a designee, the
20 secretary of transportation or a designee, the chair or a designee from
21 the utilities and transportation commission, and the superintendent of
22 public instruction or a designee. Twelve additional members shall be
23 appointed by the governor from local governments, the academic
24 community, and the private sector. Staff support shall be provided by
25 the department.

26 (2) The state earthquake preparedness committee shall maintain
27 current information on the status of earthquake preparedness, shall
28 promote and coordinate where applicable preparedness programs, and
29 shall facilitate accomplishment of programs where state agencies are

1 involved. The committee shall utilize as applicable the report
2 prepared by the seismic safety advisory board in response to section
3 225(22), chapter 16, Laws of 1990 1st ex. sess.

4 (3) The state earthquake preparedness committee shall be appointed
5 and briefed by June 30, 1993, and by June 30, 1994, shall prepare a
6 five-year plan to improve the state's earthquake readiness. By June 30
7 of each year thereafter, the committee shall update the plan, extending
8 it one year into the future. The plan shall be the basis for promoting
9 actions in the private and local government sectors and for action,
10 where applicable, by state agencies.