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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1917**

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**State of Washington**

**54th Legislature**

**1995 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on Natural Resources (originally sponsored by Representatives Pennington, Fuhrman, Thompson, Goldsmith, McMorris and Kremen)

Read first time 02/27/95.

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 frequently  
6 in the best interest of the state to utilize fire suppression equipment  
7 from private vendors whenever possible in responding to incidents  
8 involving wildfires on department-protected lands. It is the intent of  
9 the legislature to encourage the department of natural resources to  
10 utilize kitchen, shower, and other fire suppression equipment from  
11 private vendors as allowed in RCW 76.04.015(4)(b), when such  
12 utilization will be most effective and efficient.

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 June 1 of each year, establish a list  
16 of fire suppression equipment, such as portable showers, kitchens,  
17 water tanks, dozers, and hauling equipment, provided by the department

1 so that the cost by unit or category can be determined and can be  
2 compared to the expense of utilizing private vendors.

3 (2) The department shall establish a roster of quotes by vendors  
4 who are able to provide equipment to respond to incidents involving  
5 wildfires on department-protected lands. The department shall use  
6 these quotes from private vendors to make a comparison with the costs  
7 established in subsection (1) of this section. The department shall  
8 utilize the most effective and efficient resource available for  
9 responding to wildfires.

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 listed in section  
13 2(1) of this act for wildfire suppression, the department shall compare  
14 the per use cost of the equipment to be purchased or constructed with  
15 the per use cost of utilizing private equipment. If utilizing private  
16 equipment is more effective and efficient, the department may not  
17 construct or purchase the equipment but shall utilize the equipment  
18 from the lowest responsive bidder.

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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