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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1040**

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**State of Washington**

**66th Legislature**

**2019 Regular Session**

**By** House Housing, Community Development & Veterans (originally sponsored by Representatives Reeves, Stanford, Barkis, Slatter, and Ryu; by request of Insurance Commissioner)

READ FIRST TIME 01/25/19.

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; adding a new section to chapter 48.02 RCW; and creating a  
4 new section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that residents of  
7 this state have been impacted by natural disasters such as floods,  
8 landslides, wildfires, and earthquakes and continue to be at risk  
9 from these and other natural disasters. In 2016, insured losses from  
10 natural disasters in the United States totaled almost twenty-four  
11 billion dollars. In 2015, Washington state had the largest wildfire  
12 season in state history, with more than one million acres burned and  
13 costing more than two hundred fifty-three million dollars. In 2017,  
14 four hundred four thousand two hundred twenty-three acres burned in  
15 Washington state and there were more than four hundred thirty  
16 national flood insurance program claims filed, totaling over seven  
17 million dollars.

18 The legislature finds that Washington state has the second  
19 highest earthquake risk in the nation, estimated by the federal  
20 emergency management agency to exceed four hundred thirty-eight  
21 million dollars per year. The 2001 Nisqually earthquake caused more

1 than two billion dollars in damage. A Seattle fault earthquake will  
2 cause an estimated thirty-three billion dollars in damage, and a  
3 Cascadia subduction zone earthquake will cause an estimated amount of  
4 over forty-nine billion dollars in damage.

5 The legislature finds that it is critical to better prepare this  
6 state for disasters and to put in place strategies to mitigate the  
7 impacts of disasters. To address this critical need, the legislature  
8 is creating a work group to review disaster mitigation and  
9 preparation projects in this state and other states, make  
10 recommendations regarding how to coordinate and expand state efforts  
11 to mitigate the impacts of natural disasters, and evaluate whether an  
12 ongoing disaster resiliency program should be created.

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

15 (1) A work group to study and make recommendations on natural  
16 disaster and resiliency activities is hereby created. The work group  
17 membership shall be composed of:

18 (a) The insurance commissioner or his or her designee, who shall  
19 serve as the chair of the work group;

20 (b) One member from each of the four major caucuses of the  
21 legislature;

22 (c) A representative from the governor's resilient Washington  
23 work group;

24 (d) A representative from the Washington state association of  
25 counties;

26 (e) A representative from the association of Washington cities;

27 (f) A representative from the state building code council;

28 (g) The commissioner of the department of natural resources or  
29 his or her designee;

30 (h) The director of the Washington state military department or  
31 his or her designee;

32 (i) The superintendent of public instruction or his or her  
33 designee;

34 (j) The secretary of the state department of transportation or  
35 his or her designee;

36 (k) A representative of emergency and transitional housing  
37 providers, to be appointed by the office of the insurance  
38 commissioner;

- 1           (l) The director of the department of ecology or his or her  
2     designee;
- 3           (m) The director of the department of commerce or his or her  
4     designee;
- 5           (n) The director of the department of agriculture or his or her  
6     designee;
- 7           (o) The executive director of the state conservation commission  
8     or his or her designee;
- 9           (p) A representative from the Washington association of building  
10    officials;
- 11          (q) Two representatives from the property and casualty insurance  
12    industry, to be selected by the insurance commissioner or his or her  
13    designee, through an application process;
- 14          (r) A representative from public utility districts to be selected  
15    by a state association of public utility districts;
- 16          (s) A representative from the building industry association of  
17    Washington;
- 18          (t) A representative selected by the Washington state commission  
19    on African-American affairs, the Washington state commission on  
20    Hispanic affairs, the governor's office of Indian affairs, and the  
21    Washington state commission on Asian Pacific American affairs to  
22    represent the three commissions on the work group; and
- 23          (u) Other state agency representatives or stakeholder group  
24    representatives, at the discretion of the work group, for the purpose  
25    of participating in specific topic discussions or subcommittees.
- 26          (2) The work group shall engage in the following activities:
- 27           (a) Review disaster mitigation and resiliency activities being  
28    done in this state by public and private entities;
- 29           (b) Review disaster mitigation and resiliency activities being  
30    done in other states and at the federal level;
- 31           (c) Review information on uptake in this state for disaster  
32    related insurance, such as flood and earthquake insurance;
- 33           (d) Review information on how other states are coordinating  
34    disaster mitigation and resiliency work including, but not limited  
35    to, the work of entities such as the California earthquake authority;
- 36           (e) Review how other states and the federal government fund their  
37    disaster mitigation and resiliency activities and programs; and
- 38           (f) Make recommendations to the legislature and office of the  
39    insurance commissioner regarding:

1 (i) Whether this state should create an ongoing disaster  
2 resiliency program;  
3 (ii) What activities the program should engage in;  
4 (iii) How the program should coordinate with state agencies and  
5 other entities engaged in disaster mitigation and resiliency work;  
6 (iv) Where the program should be housed; and  
7 (v) How the program should be funded.  
8 (3) The work group shall submit, in compliance with RCW  
9 43.01.036, a preliminary report of recommendations to the  
10 legislature, the office of the insurance commissioner, the governor,  
11 the office of the superintendent of public instruction, and the  
12 commissioner of public lands by November 1, 2019, and a final report  
13 by December 1, 2020.

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