
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2624

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1992 Regular Session

By House Committee on Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Orr, Mitchell, Wood, Belcher, R. Meyers, Anderson, Prince, Chandler, Wineberry, Bray, Paris and R. King)

Read first time 02/11/92.

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) "Department" means the department of community development.

8 (2) "Director" means the director of the department of community
9 development.

10 (3) "State fire marshal" means the assistant director of the
11 division of fire protection services in the department of community
12 development.

13 (4) "Fire chief" includes the chief officer of a statutorily
14 authorized fire agency, or the fire chief's authorized representative.

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

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

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

15 (7) "Mutual aid" means emergency interagency assistance provided
16 without compensation under and agreement between jurisdictions under
17 chapter 39.34 RCW.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** Because of the possibility of the
19 occurrence of disastrous fires or other disasters of unprecedented size
20 and destructiveness, the need to insure that the state is adequately
21 prepared to respond to such a fire or disaster, the need to establish
22 a mechanism and a procedure to provide for reimbursement to fire
23 fighting agencies that respond to help others in time of need, and
24 generally to protect the public peace, health, safety, lives, and
25 property of the people of Washington, it is hereby declared necessary
26 to:

27 (1) Provide the policy and organizational structure for large scale
28 mobilization of fire fighting resources in the state through creation
29 of the Washington state fire services mobilization plan;

1 (2) Confer upon the director of the department of community
2 development the powers provided herein; and

3 (3) Provide a means for reimbursement to fire jurisdictions that
4 incur expenses when mobilized by the director under the Washington
5 state fire services mobilization plan.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** There is created the state fire defense
7 board consisting of the state fire marshal, a representative from the
8 department of natural resources appointed by the commissioner of public
9 lands, the assistant director of the emergency management division of
10 the department of community development, and one representative
11 selected by each regional fire defense board in the state. Members of
12 the state fire defense board shall select from among themselves a
13 chairperson. Members serving on the board do so in a voluntary
14 capacity and are not eligible for reimbursement for meeting-related
15 expenses from the state.

16 The state fire defense board shall develop and maintain the
17 Washington state fire services mobilization plan, which shall include
18 the procedures to be used during fire emergencies for coordinating
19 local, regional, and state fire jurisdiction resources. The Washington
20 state fire services mobilization plan shall be consistent with, and
21 made part of, the Washington state comprehensive emergency management
22 plan. The director shall review the fire services mobilization plan
23 as submitted by the state fire defense board and after consultation
24 with the fire protection policy board, recommend changes that may be
25 necessary, and approve the fire services mobilization plan for
26 inclusion within the state comprehensive emergency management plan.

27 It is the responsibility of the director to mobilize jurisdictions
28 under the Washington state fire services mobilization plan. The state

1 fire marshal shall serve as the state fire resources coordinator when
2 the Washington state fire services mobilization plan is mobilized.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Regions within the state are initially
4 established as follows but may be adjusted as necessary by the
5 director:

6 (1) Northwest region - Whatcom, Skagit, Snohomish, San Juan, and
7 Island counties;

8 (2) Northeast region - Okanogan, Ferry, Stevens, Pend Oreille,
9 Spokane, and Lincoln counties;

10 (3) Olympic region - Clallam and Jefferson counties;

11 (4) South Puget Sound region - Kitsap, Mason, King, and Pierce
12 counties;

13 (5) Southeast region - Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas, Grant, Adams,
14 Whitman, Yakima, Klickitat, Benton, Franklin, Walla Walla, Columbia,
15 Garfield, and Asotin counties;

16 (6) Central region - Grays Harbor, Thurston, Pacific, and Lewis
17 counties; and

18 (7) Southwest region - Wahkiakum, Cowlitz, Clark, and Skamania
19 counties.

20 Within each of these regions there is created a regional fire
21 defense board. The regional fire defense boards shall consist of two
22 members from each county in the region. One member from each county
23 shall be appointed by the county fire chiefs' association or, in the
24 event there is no such county association, by the county's legislative
25 authority. Each county's office of emergency management or, in the
26 event there is no such office, the county's legislative authority shall
27 select the second representative to the regional board. The department
28 of natural resources fire control chief shall appoint a representative
29 from each department of natural resources region to serve as a member

1 of the appropriate regional fire defense board. Members of each
2 regional board will select a chairperson and secretary as officers.
3 Members serving on the regional boards do so in a voluntary capacity
4 and are not eligible for reimbursement for meeting-related expenses
5 from the state.

6 Regional defense boards shall develop regional fire service plans
7 that include provisions for organized fire agencies to respond across
8 municipal, county, or regional boundaries. Each regional plan shall be
9 consistent with the incident command system, the Washington state fire
10 services mobilization plan, and regional response plans already adopted
11 and in use in the state. The regional boards shall work with the
12 relevant local government entities to facilitate development of
13 intergovernmental agreements if any such agreements are required to
14 implement a regional fire service plan. Each regional plan shall be
15 approved by the state fire defense board before implementation.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The department of community development
17 in consultation with the office of financial management shall develop
18 procedures to facilitate reimbursement to jurisdictions from
19 appropriate federal and state funds when jurisdictions are mobilized by
20 the director under the Washington state fire services mobilization
21 plan.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 1 through 5 of this act shall
23 constitute a new chapter in Title 38 RCW.