
SENATE BILL 5176

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By Senators Roach and Doumit

Read first time 01/17/2003. Referred to Committee on Government Operations & Elections.

1 AN ACT Relating to providing wildland fire fighting training; and
2 reenacting and amending RCW 43.43.934.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.43.934 and 1999 c 117 s 1 and 1999 c 24 s 3 are
5 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

6 Except for matters relating to the statutory duties of the chief of
7 the Washington state patrol that are to be carried out through the
8 director of fire protection, the board shall have the responsibility of
9 developing a comprehensive state policy regarding fire protection
10 services. In carrying out its duties, the board shall:

11 (1)(a) Adopt a state fire training and education master plan that
12 allows to the maximum feasible extent for negotiated agreements: (i)
13 With the state board for community and technical colleges to provide
14 academic, vocational, and field training programs for the fire service
15 and (ii) with the higher education coordinating board and the state
16 colleges and universities to provide instructional programs requiring
17 advanced training, especially in command and management skills;

18 (b) Adopt minimum standards for each level of responsibility among
19 personnel with fire suppression, prevention, inspection, and

1 investigation responsibilities that assure continuing assessment of
2 skills and are flexible enough to meet emerging technologies. With
3 particular respect to training for fire investigations, the master plan
4 shall encourage cross training in appropriate law enforcement skills.
5 To meet special local needs, fire agencies may adopt more stringent
6 requirements than those adopted by the state;

7 (c) Cooperate with the common schools, technical and community
8 colleges, institutions of higher education, and any department or
9 division of the state, or of any county or municipal corporation in
10 establishing and maintaining instruction in fire service training and
11 education in accordance with any act of congress and legislation
12 enacted by the legislature in pursuance thereof and in establishing,
13 building, and operating training and education facilities.

14 Industrial fire departments and private fire investigators may
15 participate in training and education programs under this chapter for
16 a reasonable fee established by rule;

17 (d) Develop and adopt a master plan for constructing, equipping,
18 maintaining, and operating necessary fire service training and
19 education facilities subject to the provisions of chapter 43.19 RCW;

20 (e) Develop and adopt a master plan for the purchase, lease, or
21 other acquisition of real estate necessary for fire service training
22 and education facilities in a manner provided by law; and

23 (f) Develop and adopt a plan with a goal of providing (~~at~~
24 ~~the level of~~) fire fighter one and wildland training, as defined by
25 the board, to all fire fighters in the state. The plan will include a
26 reimbursement for fire protection districts and city fire departments
27 of not less than (~~two~~) three dollars for every hour of fire fighter
28 one or wildland training. The Washington state patrol shall not
29 provide reimbursement for more than (~~one~~) two hundred (~~fifty~~)
30 hours of fire fighter one or wildland training for each fire fighter trained.

31 (2) In addition to its responsibilities for fire service training,
32 the board shall:

33 (a) Adopt a state fire protection master plan;

34 (b) Monitor fire protection in the state and develop objectives and
35 priorities to improve fire protection for the state's citizens
36 including: (i) The comprehensiveness of state and local inspections
37 required by law for fire and life safety; (ii) the level of skills and

1 training of inspectors, as well as needs for additional training; and
2 (iii) the efforts of local, regional, and state inspection agencies to
3 improve coordination and reduce duplication among inspection efforts;
4 (c) Establish and promote state arson control programs and ensure
5 development of local arson control programs;
6 (d) Provide representation for local fire protection services to
7 the governor in state-level fire protection planning matters such as,
8 but not limited to, hazardous materials control;
9 (e) Recommend to the adjutant general rules on minimum information
10 requirements of automatic location identification for the purposes of
11 enhanced 911 emergency service;
12 (f) Seek and solicit grants, gifts, bequests, devises, and matching
13 funds for use in furthering the objectives and duties of the board, and
14 establish procedures for administering them;
15 (g) Promote mutual aid and disaster planning for fire services in
16 this state;
17 (h) Assure the dissemination of information concerning the amount
18 of fire damage including that damage caused by arson, and its causes
19 and prevention; and
20 (i) Implement any legislation enacted by the legislature to meet
21 the requirements of any acts of congress that apply to this section.
22 (3) In carrying out its statutory duties, the board shall give
23 particular consideration to the appropriate roles to be played by the
24 state and by local jurisdictions with fire protection responsibilities.
25 Any determinations on the division of responsibility shall be made in
26 consultation with local fire officials and their representatives.
27 To the extent possible, the board shall encourage development of
28 regional units along compatible geographic, population, economic, and
29 fire risk dimensions. Such regional units may serve to: (a) Reinforce
30 coordination among state and local activities in fire service training,
31 reporting, inspections, and investigations; (b) identify areas of
32 special need, particularly in smaller jurisdictions with inadequate
33 resources; (c) assist the state in its oversight responsibilities; (d)
34 identify funding needs and options at both the state and local levels;
35 and (e) provide models for building local capacity in fire protection
36 programs.

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