
SENATE BILL 6505

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2004 Regular Session

By Senators Doumit, Morton, Fraser and Parlette

Read first time 01/21/2004. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources, Energy & Water.

1 AN ACT Relating to fire suppression capability in the wildland and
2 urban interface areas; creating a new section; and declaring an
3 emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The state fire protection policy board,
6 through the director of fire protection within the state patrol, shall
7 conduct an assessment of fire suppression capability in the interface
8 areas between wildlands and urban areas throughout the state. The
9 state fire protection policy board should concentrate upon the
10 geographic areas in which wildland fuels and development meet or are
11 intermixed. The state fire protection policy board should generally
12 exclude from the assessment those areas within the fire suppression
13 jurisdiction of the department of natural resources for forest lands
14 under chapter 76.04 RCW and urban areas protected by city fire
15 departments or fire protection districts in which wildland fuels are a
16 minimal source of fire hazard.

17 (2) The state fire protection policy board shall encourage the
18 participation of fire suppression jurisdictions, fire fighters, the
19 insurance industry, the department of natural resources, the emergency

1 management division of the military department, and local governments
2 in conducting the assessment. The state fire protection policy board
3 shall invite the associations of fire chiefs and fire commissioners to
4 participate fully in the assessment and to facilitate involvement of
5 and communication with fire protection districts and fire departments
6 throughout the state that provide coverage in wildlife and urban
7 interface areas. The fire protection bureau of the state patrol shall
8 provide staff assistance to the state fire protection policy board in
9 conducting the assessment.

10 (3) The assessment should include the following:

11 (a) An inventory of the interface areas within the state, including
12 a general description of the total area, and the characteristics of
13 wildlife fuels and development patterns within this area;

14 (b) A general description of current and projected coverage by fire
15 protection jurisdictions in these areas, and current and project
16 capacity of such jurisdictions considering factors such as personnel,
17 training, equipment, and budgetary resources;

18 (c) A review of existing agreements among fire jurisdictions for
19 mutual assistance and fire response within interface areas, and
20 response times and callout procedures both at a mutual-aid level and
21 for a state declared mobilization;

22 (d) An assessment of water sources and infrastructure for fire flow
23 delivery in interface areas, including availability of piped water at
24 fire flow pressure, fire hydrants, standpipes in water bodies or water
25 storage facilities, and other infrastructure;

26 (e) An assessment of land use, building and fire codes within such
27 areas, defensible space requirements, egress and ingress routes from
28 the interface areas, and the effects upon wildland fire hazard and
29 potential damages;

30 (f) Recommendations for a system of classifying interface areas
31 that recognize differences across the state in fire hazard, fire risk,
32 and structural and wildland fuel characteristics; and

33 (g) Recommendations to strengthen fire prevention and suppression
34 in interface areas, including provision of suppression infrastructure,
35 improvements in fire jurisdiction training, equipment, and funding, and
36 improved coordination among fire jurisdictions to achieve prompt and
37 effective response to fires in interface areas.

1 (4) The state fire protection policy board shall provide the report
2 to the appropriate committees of the senate and house of
3 representatives no later than December 1, 2004.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act is necessary for the immediate
5 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
6 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
7 immediately.

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