

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1756**

Chapter 376, Laws of 2005

59th Legislature  
2005 Regular Session

FIRE DEPARTMENTS

EFFECTIVE DATE: 7/24/05

Passed by the House April 19, 2005  
Yeas 96 Nays 2

FRANK CHOPP

**Speaker of the House of Representatives**

Passed by the Senate April 15, 2005  
Yeas 36 Nays 10

BRAD OWEN

**President of the Senate**

Approved May 10, 2005.

CHRISTINE GREGOIRE

**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Richard Nafziger, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1756** as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

RICHARD NAFZIGER

**Chief Clerk**

FILED

May 10, 2005 - 9:53 a.m.

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**



1 public's best interest. For these reasons, this chapter contains  
2 performance measures, comparable to that research, relating to the  
3 organization and deployment of fire suppression operations, emergency  
4 medical operations, and special operations by substantially career fire  
5 departments. This chapter does not, and is not intended to, in any way  
6 modify or limit the authority of cities and towns to set levels of  
7 service.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 102.** The definitions in this section apply  
9 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

10 (1) "Advanced life support" means functional provision of advanced  
11 airway management, including intubation, advanced cardiac monitoring,  
12 manual defibrillation, establishment and maintenance of intravenous  
13 access, and drug therapy.

14 (2) "Aircraft rescue and fire fighting" means the fire fighting  
15 actions taken to rescue persons and to control or extinguish fire  
16 involving or adjacent to aircraft on the ground.

17 (3) "Brain death" as defined by the American heart association  
18 means the irreversible death of brain cells that begins four to six  
19 minutes after cardiac arrest.

20 (4) "City" means a first class city or a second class city that  
21 provides fire protection services in a specified geographic area.

22 (5) "Fire department" means a city or town fire department  
23 responsible for fire fighting actions, emergency medical services, and  
24 other special operations in a specified geographic area. The  
25 department must be a substantially career fire department, and not a  
26 substantially volunteer fire department.

27 (6) "Fire suppression" means the activities involved in controlling  
28 and extinguishing fires.

29 (7) "First responder" means provision of initial assessment and  
30 basic first-aid intervention, including cardiac pulmonary resuscitation  
31 and automatic external defibrillator capability.

32 (8) "Flash-over" as defined by national institute of standards and  
33 technology means when all combustibles in a room burst into flame and  
34 the fire spreads rapidly.

35 (9) "Marine rescue and fire fighting" means the fire fighting  
36 actions taken to prevent, control, or extinguish fire involved in or

1 adjacent to a marine vessel and the rescue actions for occupants using  
2 normal and emergency routes for egress.

3 (10) "Response time" means the time immediately following the  
4 turnout time that begins when units are en route to the emergency  
5 incident and ends when units arrive at the scene.

6 (11) "Special operations" means those emergency incidents to which  
7 the fire department responds that require specific and advanced  
8 training and specialized tools and equipment.

9 (12) "Town" means a town that provides fire protection services,  
10 which may include fire fighting actions, emergency medical services,  
11 and other special operations, in a specified geographic area.

12 (13) "Turnout time" means the time beginning when units receive  
13 notification of the emergency to the beginning point of response time.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 103.** (1) Every city and town shall maintain a  
15 written statement or policy that establishes the following:

- 16 (a) The existence of a fire department;
- 17 (b) Services that the fire department is required to provide;
- 18 (c) The basic organizational structure of the fire department;
- 19 (d) The expected number of fire department employees; and
- 20 (e) Functions that fire department employees are expected to  
21 perform.

22 (2) Every city and town shall include service delivery objectives  
23 in the written statement or policy required under subsection (1) of  
24 this section. These objectives shall include specific response time  
25 objectives for the following major service components, if appropriate:

- 26 (a) Fire suppression;
- 27 (b) Emergency medical services;
- 28 (c) Special operations;
- 29 (d) Aircraft rescue and fire fighting;
- 30 (e) Marine rescue and fire fighting; and
- 31 (f) Wild land fire fighting.

32 (3) Every city and town, in order to measure the ability to arrive  
33 and begin mitigation operations before the critical events of brain  
34 death or flash-over, shall establish time objectives for the following  
35 measurements:

- 36 (a) Turnout time;

1 (b) Response time for the arrival of the first arriving engine  
2 company at a fire suppression incident and response time for the  
3 deployment of a full first alarm assignment at a fire suppression  
4 incident;

5 (c) Response time for the arrival of a unit with first responder or  
6 higher level capability at an emergency medical incident; and

7 (d) Response time for the arrival of an advanced life support unit  
8 at an emergency medical incident, where this service is provided by the  
9 fire department.

10 (4) Every city and town shall also establish a performance  
11 objective of not less than ninety percent for the achievement of each  
12 response time objective established under subsection (3) of this  
13 section.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 104.** (1) Every city and town shall evaluate its  
15 level of service and deployment delivery and response time objectives  
16 on an annual basis. The evaluations shall be based on data relating to  
17 level of service, deployment, and the achievement of each response time  
18 objective in each geographic area within the jurisdiction of the city  
19 or town.

20 (2) Beginning in 2007, every city and town shall issue an annual  
21 written report which shall be based on the annual evaluations required  
22 by subsection (1) of this section.

23 (a) The annual report shall define the geographic areas and  
24 circumstances in which the requirements of this standard are not being  
25 met.

26 (b) The annual report shall explain the predictable consequences of  
27 any deficiencies and address the steps that are necessary to achieve  
28 compliance.

29 **PART II - CODE CITY FIRE DEPARTMENTS**

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 201.** The legislature intends for code cities to  
31 set standards for addressing the reporting and accountability of  
32 substantially career fire departments, and to specify performance  
33 measures applicable to response time objectives for certain major  
34 services. The legislature acknowledges the efforts of the  
35 international city/county management association, the international

1 association of fire chiefs, and the national fire protection  
2 association for the organization and deployment of resources for fire  
3 departments. The arrival of first responders with automatic external  
4 defibrillator capability before the onset of brain death, and the  
5 arrival of adequate fire suppression resources before flash-over is a  
6 critical event during the mitigation of an emergency, and is in the  
7 public's best interest. For these reasons, this chapter contains  
8 performance measures, comparable to that research, relating to the  
9 organization and deployment of fire suppression operations, emergency  
10 medical operations, and special operations by substantially career fire  
11 departments. This chapter does not, and is not intended to, in any way  
12 modify or limit the authority of code cities to set levels of service.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 202.** The definitions in this section apply  
14 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

15 (1) "Advanced life support" means functional provision of advanced  
16 airway management, including intubation, advanced cardiac monitoring,  
17 manual defibrillation, establishment and maintenance of intravenous  
18 access, and drug therapy.

19 (2) "Aircraft rescue and fire fighting" means the fire fighting  
20 actions taken to rescue persons and to control or extinguish fire  
21 involving or adjacent to aircraft on the ground.

22 (3) "Brain death" as defined by the American heart association  
23 means the irreversible death of brain cells that begins four to six  
24 minutes after cardiac arrest.

25 (4) "Code city" means a code city that provides fire protection  
26 services, which may include fire fighting actions, emergency medical  
27 services, and other special operations, in a specified geographic area.

28 (5) "Fire department" means a code city fire department responsible  
29 for fire fighting actions, emergency medical services, and other  
30 special operations in a specified geographic area. The department must  
31 be a substantially career fire department, and not a substantially  
32 volunteer fire department.

33 (6) "Fire suppression" means the activities involved in controlling  
34 and extinguishing fires.

35 (7) "First responder" means provision of initial assessment and  
36 basic first-aid intervention, including cardiac pulmonary resuscitation  
37 and automatic external defibrillator capability.

1 (8) "Flash-over" as defined by national institute of standards and  
2 technology means when all combustibles in a room burst into flame and  
3 the fire spreads rapidly.

4 (9) "Marine rescue and fire fighting" means the fire fighting  
5 actions taken to prevent, control, or extinguish fire involved in or  
6 adjacent to a marine vessel and the rescue actions for occupants using  
7 normal and emergency routes for egress.

8 (10) "Response time" means the time immediately following the  
9 turnout time that begins when units are en route to the emergency  
10 incident and ends when units arrive at the scene.

11 (11) "Special operations" means those emergency incidents to which  
12 the fire department responds that require specific and advanced  
13 training and specialized tools and equipment.

14 (12) "Turnout time" means the time beginning when units receive  
15 notification of the emergency to the beginning point of response time.

16 NEW SECTION. Sec. 203. (1) Every code city shall maintain a  
17 written statement or policy that establishes the following:

- 18 (a) The existence of a fire department;
- 19 (b) Services that the fire department is required to provide;
- 20 (c) The basic organizational structure of the fire department;
- 21 (d) The expected number of fire department employees; and
- 22 (e) Functions that fire department employees are expected to  
23 perform.

24 (2) Every code city shall include service delivery objectives in  
25 the written statement or policy required under subsection (1) of this  
26 section. These objectives shall include specific response time  
27 objectives for the following major service components, if appropriate:

- 28 (a) Fire suppression;
- 29 (b) Emergency medical services;
- 30 (c) Special operations;
- 31 (d) Aircraft rescue and fire fighting;
- 32 (e) Marine rescue and fire fighting; and
- 33 (f) Wild land fire fighting.

34 (3) Every code city, in order to measure the ability to arrive and  
35 begin mitigation operations before the critical events of brain death  
36 or flash-over, shall establish time objectives for the following  
37 measurements:

1 (a) Turnout time;  
2 (b) Response time for the arrival of the first arriving engine  
3 company at a fire suppression incident and response time for the  
4 deployment of a full first alarm assignment at a fire suppression  
5 incident;  
6 (c) Response time for the arrival of a unit with first responder or  
7 higher level capability at an emergency medical incident; and  
8 (d) Response time for the arrival of an advanced life support unit  
9 at an emergency medical incident, where this service is provided by the  
10 fire department.  
11 (4) Every code city shall also establish a performance objective of  
12 not less than ninety percent for the achievement of each response time  
13 objective established under subsection (3) of this section.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 204.** (1) Every code city shall evaluate its  
15 level of service and deployment delivery and response time objectives  
16 on an annual basis. The evaluations shall be based on data relating to  
17 level of service, deployment, and the achievement of each response time  
18 objective in each geographic area within the code city's jurisdiction.

19 (2) Beginning in 2007, every code city shall issue an annual  
20 written report which shall be based on the annual evaluations required  
21 by subsection (1) of this section.

22 (a) The annual report shall define the geographic areas and  
23 circumstances in which the requirements of this standard are not being  
24 met.

25 (b) The annual report shall explain the predictable consequences of  
26 any deficiencies and address the steps that are necessary to achieve  
27 compliance.

28 **PART III - FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICTS AND**  
29 **REGIONAL FIRE PROTECTION SERVICE AUTHORITIES**

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 301.** The legislature intends for fire  
31 protection districts and regional fire service authorities to set  
32 standards for addressing the reporting and accountability of  
33 substantially career fire departments, and to specify performance  
34 measures applicable to response time objectives for certain major  
35 services. The legislature acknowledges the efforts of the



1 international city/county management association, the international  
2 association of fire chiefs, and the national fire protection  
3 association for the organization and deployment of resources for fire  
4 departments. The arrival of first responders with automatic external  
5 defibrillator capability before the onset of brain death, and the  
6 arrival of adequate fire suppression resources before flash-over is a  
7 critical event during the mitigation of an emergency, and is in the  
8 public's best interest. For these reasons, this chapter contains  
9 performance measures, comparable to that research, relating to the  
10 organization and deployment of fire suppression operations, emergency  
11 medical operations, and special operations by substantially career fire  
12 departments. This chapter does not, and is not intended to, in any way  
13 modify or limit the authority of fire protection districts and regional  
14 fire protection service authorities to set levels of service.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 302.** The definitions in this section apply  
16 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

17 (1) "Advanced life support" means functional provision of advanced  
18 airway management, including intubation, advanced cardiac monitoring,  
19 manual defibrillation, establishment and maintenance of intravenous  
20 access, and drug therapy.

21 (2) "Aircraft rescue and fire fighting" means the fire fighting  
22 actions taken to rescue persons and to control or extinguish fire  
23 involving or adjacent to aircraft on the ground.

24 (3) "Brain death" as defined by the American heart association  
25 means the irreversible death of brain cells that begins four to six  
26 minutes after cardiac arrest.

27 (4) "Fire department" means a fire protection district or a  
28 regional fire protection service authority responsible for fire  
29 fighting actions, emergency medical services, and other special  
30 operations in a specified geographic area. The department must be a  
31 substantially career fire department, and not a substantially volunteer  
32 fire department.

33 (5) "Fire suppression" means the activities involved in controlling  
34 and extinguishing fires.

35 (6) "First responder" means provision of initial assessment and  
36 basic first-aid intervention, including cardiac pulmonary resuscitation  
37 and automatic external defibrillator capability.

1 (7) "Flash-over" as defined by national institute of standards and  
2 technology means when all combustibles in a room burst into flame and  
3 the fire spreads rapidly.

4 (8) "Marine rescue and fire fighting" means the fire fighting  
5 actions taken to prevent, control, or extinguish fire involved in or  
6 adjacent to a marine vessel and the rescue actions for occupants using  
7 normal and emergency routes for egress.

8 (9) "Response time" means the time immediately following the  
9 turnout time that begins when units are en route to the emergency  
10 incident and ends when units arrive at the scene.

11 (10) "Special operations" means those emergency incidents to which  
12 the fire department responds that require specific and advanced  
13 training and specialized tools and equipment.

14 (11) "Turnout time" means the time beginning when units receive  
15 notification of the emergency to the beginning point of response time.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 303.** (1) Every fire protection district and  
17 regional fire protection service authority shall maintain a written  
18 statement or policy that establishes the following:

- 19 (a) The existence of a fire department;  
20 (b) Services that the fire department is required to provide;  
21 (c) The basic organizational structure of the fire department;  
22 (d) The expected number of fire department employees; and  
23 (e) Functions that fire department employees are expected to  
24 perform.

25 (2) Every fire protection district and regional fire protection  
26 service authority shall include service delivery objectives in the  
27 written statement or policy required under subsection (1) of this  
28 section. These objectives shall include specific response time  
29 objectives for the following major service components, if appropriate:

- 30 (a) Fire suppression;  
31 (b) Emergency medical services;  
32 (c) Special operations;  
33 (d) Aircraft rescue and fire fighting;  
34 (e) Marine rescue and fire fighting; and  
35 (f) Wild land fire fighting.

36 (3) Every fire protection district and regional fire protection  
37 service authority, in order to measure the ability to arrive and begin

1 mitigation operations before the critical events of brain death or  
2 flash-over, shall establish time objectives for the following  
3 measurements:

4 (a) Turnout time;

5 (b) Response time for the arrival of the first arriving engine  
6 company at a fire suppression incident and response time for the  
7 deployment of a full first alarm assignment at a fire suppression  
8 incident;

9 (c) Response time for the arrival of a unit with first responder or  
10 higher level capability at an emergency medical incident; and

11 (d) Response time for the arrival of an advanced life support unit  
12 at an emergency medical incident, where this service is provided by the  
13 fire department.

14 (4) Every fire protection district and regional fire protection  
15 service authority shall also establish a performance objective of not  
16 less than ninety percent for the achievement of each response time  
17 objective established under subsection (3) of this section.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 304.** (1) Every fire protection district and  
19 regional fire protection service authority shall evaluate its level of  
20 service and deployment delivery and response time objectives on an  
21 annual basis. The evaluations shall be based on data relating to level  
22 of service, deployment, and the achievement of each response time  
23 objective in each geographic area within the jurisdiction of the fire  
24 protection district and regional fire protection service authority.

25 (2) Beginning in 2007, every fire protection district and regional  
26 fire protection service authority shall issue an annual written report  
27 which shall be based on the annual evaluations required by subsection  
28 (1) of this section.

29 (a) The annual report shall define the geographic areas and  
30 circumstances in which the requirements of this standard are not being  
31 met.

32 (b) The annual report shall explain the predictable consequences of  
33 any deficiencies and address the steps that are necessary to achieve  
34 compliance.

35 **PART IV - PORT DISTRICTS**

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 401.**    The legislature intends for port districts  
2 to set standards for addressing the reporting and accountability of  
3 substantially career fire departments, and to specify performance  
4 measures applicable to response time objectives for certain major  
5 services.        The legislature acknowledges the efforts of the  
6 international city/county management association, the international  
7 association of fire chiefs, and the national fire protection  
8 association for the organization and deployment of resources for fire  
9 departments.    The arrival of first responders with automatic external  
10 defibrillator capability before the onset of brain death, and the  
11 arrival of adequate fire suppression resources before flash-over is a  
12 critical event during the mitigation of an emergency, and is in the  
13 public's best interest.    For these reasons, this chapter contains  
14 performance measures, comparable to that research, relating to the  
15 organization and deployment of fire suppression operations, emergency  
16 medical operations, and special operations by substantially career fire  
17 departments.    This chapter does not, and is not intended to, in any way  
18 modify or limit the authority of port districts to set levels of  
19 service.

20        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 402.**    The definitions in this section apply  
21 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

22        (1) "Advanced life support" means functional provision of advanced  
23 airway management, including intubation, advanced cardiac monitoring,  
24 manual defibrillation, establishment and maintenance of intravenous  
25 access, and drug therapy.

26        (2) "Aircraft rescue and fire fighting" means the fire fighting  
27 actions taken to rescue persons and to control or extinguish fire  
28 involving or adjacent to aircraft on the ground.

29        (3) "Brain death" as defined by the American heart association  
30 means the irreversible death of brain cells that begins four to six  
31 minutes after cardiac arrest.

32        (4) "Fire department" means a port district fire department  
33 responsible for fire fighting actions, emergency medical services, and  
34 other special operations in a specified geographic area.    The  
35 department must be a substantially career fire department, and not a  
36 substantially volunteer fire department.

1 (5) "Fire suppression" means the activities involved in controlling  
2 and extinguishing fires.

3 (6) "First responder" means provision of initial assessment and  
4 basic first-aid intervention, including cardiac pulmonary resuscitation  
5 and automatic external defibrillator capability.

6 (7) "Flash-over" as defined by national institute of standards and  
7 technology means when all combustibles in a room burst into flame and  
8 the fire spreads rapidly.

9 (8) "Marine rescue and fire fighting" means the fire fighting  
10 actions taken to prevent, control, or extinguish fire involved in or  
11 adjacent to a marine vessel and the rescue actions for occupants using  
12 normal and emergency routes for egress.

13 (9) "Port" means a port district that provides fire protection  
14 services, which may include fire fighting actions, emergency medical  
15 services, and other special operations, in a specified geographic area.

16 (10) "Response time" means the time immediately following the  
17 turnout time that begins when units are en route to the emergency  
18 incident and ends when units arrive at the scene.

19 (11) "Special operations" means those emergency incidents to which  
20 the fire department responds that require specific and advanced  
21 training and specialized tools and equipment.

22 (12) "Turnout time" means the time beginning when units receive  
23 notification of the emergency to the beginning point of response time.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 403.** (1) Every port shall maintain a written  
25 statement or policy that establishes the following:

- 26 (a) The existence of a fire department;
- 27 (b) Services that the fire department is required to provide;
- 28 (c) The basic organizational structure of the fire department;
- 29 (d) The expected number of fire department employees; and
- 30 (e) Functions that fire department employees are expected to  
31 perform.

32 (2) Every port shall include service delivery objectives in the  
33 written statement or policy required under subsection (1) of this  
34 section. These objectives shall include specific response time  
35 objectives for the following major service components, if appropriate:

- 36 (a) Fire suppression;
- 37 (b) Emergency medical services;

- 1 (c) Special operations;
- 2 (d) Aircraft rescue and fire fighting;
- 3 (e) Marine rescue and fire fighting; and
- 4 (f) Wild land fire fighting.

5 (3) Every port, in order to measure the ability to arrive and begin  
6 mitigation operations before the critical events of brain death or  
7 flash-over, shall establish time objectives for the following  
8 measurements:

9 (a) Turnout time;

10 (b) Response time for the arrival of the first arriving engine  
11 company at a fire suppression incident and response time for the  
12 deployment of a full first alarm assignment at a fire suppression  
13 incident;

14 (c) Response time for the arrival of a unit with first responder or  
15 higher level capability at an emergency medical incident; and

16 (d) Response time for the arrival of an advanced life support unit  
17 at an emergency medical incident, where this service is provided by the  
18 fire department.

19 (4) Every port shall also establish a performance objective of not  
20 less than ninety percent for the achievement of each response time  
21 objective established under subsection (3) of this section.

22 (5) An annual part 139 inspection and certification by the federal  
23 aviation administration shall be considered to meet the requirements of  
24 this section.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 404.** (1) Every port shall evaluate its level of  
26 service and deployment delivery and response time objectives on an  
27 annual basis. The evaluations shall be based on data relating to level  
28 of service, deployment, and the achievement of each response time  
29 objective in each geographic area within the port's jurisdiction.

30 (2) Beginning in 2007, every port shall issue an annual written  
31 report which shall be based on the annual evaluations required by  
32 subsection (1) of this section.

33 (a) The annual report shall define the geographic areas and  
34 circumstances in which the requirements of this standard are not being  
35 met.

36 (b) The annual report shall explain the predictable consequences of

1 any deficiencies and address the steps that are necessary to achieve  
2 compliance.

3 (3) An annual part 139 inspection and certification by the federal  
4 aviation administration shall be considered to meet the requirements of  
5 this section.

6 **PART V - MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 501.** Part headings used in this act are not any  
8 part of the law.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 502.** (1) Sections 101 through 104 of this act  
10 constitute a new chapter in Title 35 RCW.

11 (2) Sections 201 through 204 of this act constitute a new chapter  
12 in Title 35A RCW.

13 (3) Sections 301 through 304 of this act constitute a new chapter  
14 in Title 52 RCW.

15 (4) Sections 401 through 404 of this act constitute a new chapter  
16 in Title 53 RCW.

Passed by the House April 19, 2005.  
Passed by the Senate April 15, 2005.  
Approved by the Governor May 10, 2005.  
Filed in Office of Secretary of State May 10, 2005.