

HB 1039 - DIGEST

(SEE ALSO PROPOSED 1ST SUB)

Finds that: (1) The threat of an incident caused by a chemical, biological, radioactive, nuclear, or explosive (CBRNE) agent occurring in the state poses a severe threat to the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the state of Washington. In order to mitigate any damage that may be caused by CBRNE incidents, it is necessary that the state have a coordinated and comprehensive plan to respond to these dangerous and deadly incidents; and

(2) The current system of relying almost exclusively on local jurisdictions to respond to CBRNE incidents is inadequate because it stretches the capabilities of local jurisdictions, it lacks uniformity in training, equipment, and response standards, and it hinders the ability of jurisdictions to cooperate in the event of a catastrophic incident. Major portions of the state lack protection from CBRNE incidents because many local jurisdictions simply do not have the capabilities to respond to these incidents.

Establishes a statewide CBRNE response program that relies on a network of regional response teams that operate with standardized training and equipment.

Requires the director of fire protection to establish and maintain a statewide CBRNE response program.

Declares the requirement of the statewide CBRNE response program is subject to appropriation by the legislature.

Creates the policy advisory group and the operations advisory group to assist the director of fire protection in implementing and managing the statewide CBRNE response program.

Creates the statewide CBRNE response account.

Provides that the act is null and void if appropriations are not approved.