

SHB 2320 - S COMM AMD

By Committee on Financial Institutions & Insurance

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 48.02
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 Residents of this state have been impacted by natural disasters
6 such as floods, landslides, wildfires, and earthquakes and continue
7 to be at risk from these and other natural disasters. In 2016,
8 insured losses from natural disasters in the United States totaled
9 almost twenty-four billion dollars. In 2015, this state's wildfire
10 season was the largest in Washington state history, burning more than
11 one million acres and costing more than two hundred fifty-three
12 million dollars. In 2016, almost two hundred ninety-four thousand
13 acres burned in Washington state and there were more than four
14 hundred thirty national flood insurance program (nfip) claims filed,
15 totaling over seven million dollars. It is critical that more be done
16 to better prepare this state for disasters and to put in place
17 strategies to mitigate the impacts of the disasters. To address this
18 critical need, the legislature is creating a work group that will
19 review disaster mitigation and preparation projects in other states
20 and those currently being done in this state and make recommendations
21 for how this state's efforts to mitigate the impacts of natural
22 disasters can be expanded and coordinated and whether or not an
23 ongoing disaster resiliency program should be created.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 48.02
25 RCW to read as follows:

26 A working group to study and make recommendations on natural
27 disaster and resiliency activities is hereby created. The working
28 group membership shall be composed of:

29 (1) The insurance commissioner or his or her designee, who shall
30 be the chair of the working group;

- 1 (2) One member from each of the four major caucuses of the
2 legislature;
- 3 (3) A representative from the governor's resilient Washington
4 work group;
- 5 (4) A representative from the Washington state association of
6 counties;
- 7 (5) A representative from the association of Washington cities;
- 8 (6) A representative from the state building code council;
- 9 (7) The supervisor of the department of natural resources or his
10 or her designee;
- 11 (8) The director of the Washington state military department or
12 his or her designee;
- 13 (9) The superintendent of public instruction or his or her
14 designee;
- 15 (10) The director of the department of ecology or his or her
16 designee;
- 17 (11) The director of the department of commerce or his or her
18 designee;
- 19 (12) A representative from the Washington association of building
20 officials;
- 21 (13) Two representatives from the property and casualty insurance
22 industry, to be selected by the insurance commissioner or his or her
23 designee, through an application process;
- 24 (14) A representative from public utility districts to be
25 selected by a state association of public utility districts;
- 26 (15) The Washington state commission on African-American affairs,
27 the Washington state commission on Hispanic affairs, and the
28 Washington state commission on Asian Pacific American affairs, shall
29 select a representative to represent the three commissions on the
30 work group; and
- 31 (16) Other state agency representatives or stakeholder group
32 representatives, at the discretion of the working group, for the
33 purpose of participating in specific topic discussions or
34 subcommittees.

35 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 48.02
36 RCW to read as follows:

- 37 (1) The working group will engage in the following activities:
- 38 (a) Review disaster mitigation and resiliency activities being
39 done in this state by public and private entities;

1 (b) Review disaster mitigation and resiliency activities being
2 done in other states and at the federal level;
3 (c) Review information on uptake in this state for disaster-
4 related insurance, such as flood and earthquake;
5 (d) Review information on how other states are coordinating
6 disaster mitigation and resiliency work and the work of entities such
7 as the California earthquake authority;
8 (e) Review how other states and the federal government fund their
9 disaster mitigation and resiliency activities and programs;
10 (f) Make recommendations to the legislature and the office of the
11 insurance commissioner on:
12 (i) Whether this state should create an ongoing disaster
13 resiliency program;
14 (ii) What activities the program should engage in;
15 (iii) How the program should coordinate with state agencies and
16 other entities engaged in disaster mitigation and resiliency work;
17 (iv) Where the program should be housed; and
18 (v) How the program should be funded.
19 (2) The working group shall meet during the 2018 interim and make
20 their recommendations to the legislature by December 1, 2018."

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21 On page 1, line 3 of the title, after "activities;" strike the
22 remainder of the title and insert "and adding new sections to chapter
23 48.02 RCW."

EFFECT: Adds a representative of public utility districts to the natural disaster mitigation work group. Adds a representative selected by the Washington State Commission on African-American Affairs, the Washington State Commission on Hispanic Affairs, and the Washington State Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs, to represent the three commissions on the work group.

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