

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5175**

Chapter 76, Laws of 2019

66th Legislature  
2019 Regular Session

FIREFIGHTER SAFETY--BEST PRACTICES

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 28, 2019

Passed by the Senate March 8, 2019  
Yeas 48 Nays 0

KAREN KEISER

**President of the Senate**

Passed by the House April 11, 2019  
Yeas 96 Nays 0

FRANK CHOPP

**Speaker of the House of Representatives**

Approved April 19, 2019 11:17 AM

JAY INSLEE

**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Brad Hendrickson, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5175** as passed by Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

BRAD HENDRICKSON

**Secretary**

FILED

April 22, 2019

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5175**

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Passed Legislature - 2019 Regular Session

**State of Washington**

**66th Legislature**

**2019 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Labor & Commerce (originally sponsored by Senators Braun, Keiser, Becker, Fortunato, Palumbo, Wilson, L., Rivers, Kuderer, O'Ban, Van De Wege, and Wagoner)

READ FIRST TIME 02/05/19.

1       AN ACT Relating to firefighter safety; and adding new sections to  
2 chapter 51.04 RCW.

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

4       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 51.04  
5 RCW to read as follows:

6       (1) The department must establish best practices to improve  
7 safety and health outcomes for firefighters, including best  
8 practices:

9       (a) For a proactive health and safety risk management system  
10 consisting of a joint employer and employee governance structure to  
11 oversee a continuous process of identification, evaluation,  
12 monitoring and controlling, and reporting safety and health hazards  
13 in the workplace;

14       (b) To reduce firefighter risk of exposure to carcinogens; and

15       (c) To prevent or reduce the risk of injuries and illness with  
16 particular focus on causes of compensable workers' compensation  
17 claims.

18       (2) Employers of firefighters who implement the best practices  
19 provided in subsection (1) of this section may be eligible for a  
20 premium discount as determined by the department according to  
21 criteria established by the department.

1 (3) The department must consult with firefighters and employers  
2 of firefighters in establishing the best practices and criteria for a  
3 premium discount under this section.

4 (4) The department may update the best practices established  
5 under this section as appropriate.

6 (5) For the purposes of this section, "firefighter" has the same  
7 meaning as in RCW 41.26.030(17) (a) through (c).

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 51.04  
9 RCW to read as follows:

10 (1) The director is authorized to provide funding of up to two  
11 percent of the premiums paid in the prior year from the risk classes  
12 for firefighters as defined in RCW 41.26.030(17) (a) through (c) for  
13 the purposes of providing funding to employers of firefighters who  
14 have limited resources to purchase additional equipment and other  
15 gear that may be needed to follow best practices under section 1 of  
16 this act. The department may require matching funds from employers.  
17 An appropriation is not required for expenditures. Only employers who  
18 pay premiums to the state fund as defined in RCW 51.08.175 are  
19 eligible for funding under this section.

20 (2) The department may adopt rules if necessary to implement this  
21 section.

Passed by the Senate March 8, 2019.  
Passed by the House April 11, 2019.  
Approved by the Governor April 19, 2019.  
Filed in Office of Secretary of State April 22, 2019.

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