
HOUSE BILL 1014

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By Representatives Abbarno, Bronoske, Ryu, Simmons, Bateman, Graham, Ramel, Griffey, Dye, Klicker, Orcutt, and Cheney

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1 AN ACT Relating to capital projects for the provision of fire
2 protection services; and adding a new chapter to Title 43 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The definitions in this section apply
5 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires
6 otherwise.

7 (1) "Department" means the department of commerce.

8 (2) "Fire protection services capital project" means a project of
9 a local government for the planning, acquisition, construction,
10 repair, reconstruction, replacement, rehabilitation, or improvement
11 of a facility providing fire protection services.

12 (3) "Local governments" means cities, towns, counties, special
13 purpose districts, port districts, and any other municipal
14 corporations or quasi-municipal corporations in the state providing
15 fire protection services.

16 (4) "Rural county" means a county with a population density of
17 fewer than 100 persons per square mile or a county smaller than 225
18 square miles, as determined by the office of financial management
19 pursuant to RCW 43.62.035.

1 NEW SECTION.

2 **Sec. 2.**

3 (1) The department must establish a
4 competitive grant program to award funding to local governments in
5 rural counties for fire protection services capital projects.

6 (2) (a) The department must establish a committee to develop the
7 grant program criteria and process for prioritization of
8 applications. The committee must be composed of no less than one
9 representative each from the department, a fire protection district,
10 a county, and a city.

11 (b) The department must consider, at a minimum and in any order,
12 the following factors in prioritizing projects:

13 (i) The insurance services office fire rating for the
14 jurisdiction providing the fire protection services in the facility;

15 (ii) The extent to which the project leverages other funds;

16 (iii) The ability of the local government providing the fire
17 protection services to levy local resources;

18 (iv) Whether the project is critical in nature and would affect
19 the health and safety of the people in the community of service;

20 (v) The extent to which the project is ready to proceed to
21 construction;

22 (vi) Whether the project is located in a distressed area as
23 defined in RCW 43.168.020; and

24 (vii) Whether the project consolidates or regionalizes services.

25 (3) (a) Funds awarded under this section may be given only after
26 private or public match funds are committed. Private or public match
27 funds may consist of cash, equipment, land, buildings, or like-kind.
28 In determining the level of match required, the department shall take
29 into consideration the financial need of the applicant and the
30 economic conditions of the location of the proposed facility.

31 (b) The maximum amount of total funding that the department may
32 provide for any jurisdiction is \$2,000,000 per biennium.

33 (4) To ensure a grant under this section primarily serves the
34 public interest and benefits the public, contracts for grants
35 authorized under this section must include provisions that the
36 capital improvements be held by the grantee for a specified period of
37 time appropriate to the amount of the grant and that facilities be
38 used for the express purpose of the grant. If the grantee is found to
39 be out of compliance with provisions of the contract, the grantee
shall repay to the state general fund the principal amount of the
grant plus interest calculated at the rate of interest on state of

1 Washington general obligation bonds issued most closely to the date
2 of authorization of the grant.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) By November 1, 2024, and each year
4 thereafter, the department must develop and submit a report regarding
5 the fire protection services capital projects grant program to the
6 office of financial management and the legislature. The report must
7 include:

8 (a) The total number of applications and amount of funding
9 requested for fire protection services capital projects;

10 (b) A list and description of projects approved in the preceding
11 fiscal year with project scores against the department's
12 prioritization criteria;

13 (c) The total amount of grant disbursements made in the preceding
14 fiscal year; and

15 (d) The total amount of funds obligated and timing of when the
16 funds were obligated in the preceding fiscal year.

17 (2) The department may gather data from the eligible applicants
18 awarded the grant funding in order to develop the report.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Sections 1 through 3 of this act
20 constitute a new chapter in Title 43 RCW.

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