
SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1728

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By House Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Donaghy, Rule, Reeves, Morgan, Ramel, Reed, and Leavitt)

READ FIRST TIME 02/24/23.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating a statewide resiliency program;
2 adding a new section to chapter 38.52 RCW; and creating new sections.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Washington state residents have been
5 increasingly impacted by disasters such as floods, landslides,
6 wildfires, earthquakes, and the COVID-19 pandemic and they continue
7 to be at risk from emergency threats and other disasters, with
8 communities of color and vulnerable populations disproportionately
9 impacted. Residents are also negatively impacted by certain responses
10 to disasters, including border closures. The legislature finds that
11 it is critical to better prepare Washington for disasters and to
12 mitigate the impacts with coordinated resilience strategies. The
13 legislature further finds a resilient Washington increases quality of
14 life for Washingtonians while every one dollar spent on mitigation
15 saves six dollars spent on recovery. To address this critical need,
16 the legislature intends to implement a disaster resilience program
17 for the benefit of all Washingtonians while conserving expenditures
18 by both public and private sectors.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 38.52
20 RCW to read as follows:

1 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
2 specific purpose, the emergency management division within the
3 department shall develop and administer a disaster resilience
4 program. The program should include:

5 (a) Methods for ensuring ongoing coordination of state and local
6 disaster resilience and response activities, including:

7 (i) Coordinating funding to maximize federal, state, local, and
8 private investments;

9 (ii) Serving as a public and private disaster resilience resource
10 center;

11 (iii) Enhancing interagency collaboration, education, and
12 outreach programs; and

13 (iv) Identifying and leveraging respective roles, authorities,
14 and expertise of agencies;

15 (b) Strategies for addressing the impacts of all hazards, both
16 natural and human-caused, such as border closures, including:

17 (i) Developing, coordinating, and communicating disaster
18 resilience initiatives and projects across state agencies and local
19 governments on hazards and issues where there is not another lead
20 agency for coordinating resilience activities, including projects
21 that give special consideration to exclave communities;

22 (ii) Conducting policy research and recommendations related to
23 enhancing disaster resilience;

24 (iii) Coordinating research, data collection, and analysis;

25 (iv) Researching economic tools to address disaster resilience;
26 and

27 (v) Recommending investments to mitigate disaster risks from all
28 threats and hazards; and

29 (c) Participating and collaborating in interagency efforts to
30 advance statewide climate resilience activities under chapter 70A.05
31 RCW, including collaborating on the development of a statewide
32 strategy and identifying opportunities to leverage funding to advance
33 solutions that improve the resilience of communities, infrastructure,
34 and ecosystems.

35 (2) For purposes of this section:

36 (a) "Resilience" means the ability to prepare, mitigate, plan
37 for, withstand, recover from, and more successfully adapt to adverse
38 events and changing conditions, and reorganize in an equitable manner
39 that results in a new and better condition; and

1 (b) "Disaster resilience" means resilience within the critical
2 infrastructure sectors of emergency services; communications;
3 critical government facilities; transportation; critical
4 manufacturing; commercial facilities; chemical manufacturing and
5 distribution; water and wastewater treatment; and dams, excluding
6 power generation.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Before July 1, 2025, the emergency
8 management division of the state military department shall provide a
9 report to the office of the governor and the appropriate committees
10 of the legislature on the overall progress of disaster resilience
11 efforts for the hazards and issues where there is not another lead
12 agency for coordinating resilience activities. Each agency with
13 responsibility for resilience activities, including but not limited
14 to the department of ecology, department of health, Washington
15 technology solutions, department of agriculture, and department of
16 commerce, is encouraged to include an update on its efforts and any
17 associated policy recommendations as an appendix to the report.

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