
HOUSE BILL 1728

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By Representatives Donaghy, Rule, Reeves, Morgan, Ramel, Reed, and Leavitt

Read first time 02/02/23. Referred to Committee on Innovation, Community & Economic Development, & Veterans.

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

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Washington state residents have been
6 increasingly impacted by natural disasters such as floods,
7 landslides, wildfires, earthquakes, and the COVID-19 pandemic and
8 they continue to be at risk from these and other natural disasters,
9 with communities of color and vulnerable populations
10 disproportionately impacted. The legislature finds that it is
11 critical to better prepare Washington for disasters and to mitigate
12 the impacts with coordinated resiliency strategies. The legislature
13 further finds a resilient Washington increases quality of life for
14 Washingtonians while every one dollar spent on mitigation saves six
15 dollars spent on recovery. To address this critical need, the
16 legislature intends to implement a statewide resiliency program for
17 the benefit of all Washingtonians while conserving expenditures by
18 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) The emergency management division within the department shall
2 develop and administer a statewide resiliency program. The program
3 should include:

4 (a) Methods for ensuring ongoing coordination of state and local
5 resiliency and response activities, including:

6 (i) Developing, administering, tracking, and communicating
7 progress of overall resiliency efforts;

8 (ii) Coordinating funding to maximize federal, state, local, and
9 private investments;

10 (iii) Serving as a public and private resiliency resource center;
11 and

12 (iv) Enhancing interagency collaboration, education, and outreach
13 programs;

14 (b) A coordinated long-term resiliency strategy for addressing
15 the impacts of all hazards, both natural and human-caused, including:

16 (i) Developing, coordinating, and communicating resiliency
17 initiatives and projects across state agencies and local governments,
18 including initiatives and projects supporting climate resiliency;

19 (ii) Conducting policy research and recommendations related to
20 enhancing resiliency;

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

22 (iv) Researching economic tools to address resiliency; and

23 (v) Recommending investments to mitigate risks from all hazards;
24 and

25 (c) Support functions to agencies, departments, tribes, and other
26 stakeholders to develop solutions that improve the resiliency of the
27 state's waters, forests, and other vital ecosystems to the impacts of
28 climate change, and increase their carbon pollution reduction
29 capacity through sequestration, storage, and overall ecosystem
30 integrity.

31 (2) For purposes of this section, "resiliency" means the ability
32 to prepare, mitigate, plan for, withstand, recover from, and more
33 successfully adapt to adverse events and changing conditions, and
34 reorganize in an equitable manner that results in a new and better
35 condition.

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