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HOUSE BILL 1271

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State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

**By** Representatives Nance, Dent, Marshall, Bronoske, Leavitt, Salahuddin, Ryu, Davis, Mena, Ramel, Dye, Barkis, Klicker, Reed, Ormsby, Scott, Eslick, Parshley, Taylor, Kloba, Timmons, Peterson, Richards, Simmons, Hunt, V, and Hill

Read first time 01/14/25. Referred to Committee on Technology, Economic Development, & Veterans.

1 AN ACT Relating to early deployment of state fire service  
2 resources; and amending RCW 43.43.960.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.43.960 and 2019 c 259 s 1 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in  
7 this section apply throughout this subchapter.

8 (1) "All risk resources" means those resources regularly provided  
9 by fire departments, fire districts, and regional fire protection  
10 service authorities required to respond to natural or man-made  
11 incidents, including but not limited to:

- 12 (a) Wild land fires;
- 13 (b) Landslides;
- 14 (c) Earthquakes;
- 15 (d) Floods; and
- 16 (e) Contagious diseases.

17 (2) "Chief" means the chief of the Washington state patrol.

18 (3) "Fire chief" includes the chief officer of a statutorily  
19 authorized fire agency, or the fire chief's authorized  
20 representative. Also included are the department of natural resources

1 fire control chief, and the department of natural resources regional  
2 managers.

3 (4) "Jurisdiction" means state, county, city, fire district,  
4 regional fire protection service authority, or port district units,  
5 or other units covered by this chapter.

6 (5) "Mobilization" means that all risk resources regularly  
7 provided by fire departments, fire districts, and regional fire  
8 protection service authorities beyond those available through  
9 existing agreements will be requested and, when available, sent in  
10 preparation of, or response to, an emergency or disaster situation  
11 that has (~~exceeded~~) or is predicted to exceed the capabilities of  
12 available local resources. During a large scale emergency,  
13 mobilization includes the redistribution of regional or statewide  
14 risk resources to either direct emergency incident assignments or to  
15 assignment in communities where resources are needed. All risk  
16 resources may not be mobilized to assist law enforcement with police  
17 activities during a civil protest or demonstration, or other exercise  
18 by the people of their constitutionally protected First Amendment  
19 rights, or other protected concerted activity, however, fire  
20 departments, fire districts, and regional fire protection service  
21 authorities are not restricted from providing medical care or aid and  
22 firefighting when mobilized for any purpose.

23 When mobilization is declared and authorized as provided in this  
24 chapter, all risk resources regularly provided by fire departments,  
25 fire districts, and regional fire protection service authorities  
26 including those of the host fire protection authorities, i.e.  
27 incident jurisdiction, shall be deemed as mobilized under this  
28 chapter, including those that responded earlier under existing mutual  
29 aid or other agreement. All nonhost fire protection authorities  
30 providing resources in response to a mobilization declaration shall  
31 be eligible for expense reimbursement as provided by this chapter  
32 from the time of the mobilization declaration.

33 This chapter shall not reduce or suspend the authority or  
34 responsibility of the department of natural resources under chapter  
35 76.04 RCW.

36 (6) "Mutual aid" means emergency interagency assistance provided  
37 without compensation under an agreement between jurisdictions under  
38 chapter 39.34 RCW.

1           (7) "State fire marshal" means the director of fire protection in  
2 the Washington state patrol.

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