
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2183

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2026 Regular Session

By House Local Government (originally sponsored by Representatives Parshley, Hall, Mena, Leavitt, Stearns, Ryu, Doglio, Callan, Ramel, Reed, Cortes, Wylie, Ormsby, Berg, Thai, Macri, Fosse, Pollet, and Salahuddin)

READ FIRST TIME 01/27/26.

1 AN ACT Relating to requiring counties to develop and implement
2 heat response plans; and adding a new section to chapter 36.70A 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 36.70A
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 (1) By July 1, 2027, each county legislative authority of a
7 county planning under this chapter must create and adopt an extreme
8 heat response plan. Plans must be developed in cooperation with the
9 local health jurisdiction, county emergency management department,
10 and other local governments within the county.

11 (2) Each extreme heat response plan must, at a minimum:

12 (a) Include planning for both immediate response during an
13 extreme heat event and for long-term adaptation strategies to
14 mitigate extreme heat events in the future, including particular
15 emphasis on making investments to avoid a brownout or blackout of
16 electricity during an extreme heat event, and ensure that such
17 planning includes adequate cooling strategies beyond the use of
18 cooling centers;

19 (b) Include planning for mitigating harms to, and prioritizing
20 the protection of, high-risk populations including, but not limited
21 to, those 65 years of age or older, outdoor workers, medically

1 vulnerable individuals, pregnant individuals, children under six
2 years of age, and households making 80 percent or less of the area
3 median income. When addressing considerations for outdoor workers,
4 counties must refer to heat exposure safety and health rules adopted
5 by the Washington state department of labor and industries;

6 (c) Identify any actions necessary to establish partnerships with
7 federally recognized Indian tribes and urban Indian health
8 organizations within the county in planning and responding to extreme
9 heat events;

10 (d) Implement outreach programs to educate county residents about
11 extreme heat risks and mitigation measures;

12 (e) Implement community engagement strategies for early warning
13 systems and public messaging before heat events;

14 (f) Recommend adaptation strategies for buildings, including
15 plans for incentives for heat pumps, portable cooling units, and
16 passive heat mitigation, as well as recommendations for private
17 individual adaptations;

18 (g) Develop protocols for heat-related medical emergencies,
19 including crisis management of care in coordination with health care
20 providers and emergency responders;

21 (h) Ensure that the county acknowledges the limitations of
22 cooling centers and has adequate cooling strategies beyond such
23 centers; and

24 (i) Implement measures to collect data on and to monitor heat-
25 related illnesses, mortality, and the effectiveness of interventions
26 to prevent illness and mortality.

27 (3) Counties that have, prior to the effective date of this
28 section, adopted extreme heat response plans that substantially
29 comply with the requirements of this section are not subject to the
30 adoption deadline in subsection (1) of this section.

31 (4) After adoption of an extreme heat response plan, each county
32 must review and, if necessary, revise its heat response plan at the
33 time of its comprehensive plan update required under RCW 36.70A.130.

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