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**HOUSE BILL 2183**

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**State of Washington**

**69th Legislature**

**2026 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Parshley, Hall, Mena, Leavitt, Stearns, Ryu, Doglio, Callan, Ramel, Reed, Cortes, Wylie, Ormsby, Berg, Thai, Macri, Fosse, Pollet, and Salahuddin

Prefiled 12/22/25. Read first time 01/12/26. Referred to Committee on Local Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to requiring counties to develop and implement  
2 heat response plans; amending RCW 70.05.060; and adding a new section  
3 to chapter 36.70A RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 36.70A  
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) By July 1, 2027, each county planning under this chapter must  
8 create and adopt an extreme heat response plan. Plans must be  
9 developed by the county local board of health or health district in  
10 cooperation with the public health and emergency departments of the  
11 cities within the county.

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

13 (a) Include planning for both immediate response during an  
14 extreme heat event and for long-term adaptation strategies to  
15 mitigate extreme heat events in the future, and ensure that such  
16 planning includes adequate cooling strategies beyond the use of  
17 cooling centers;

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

1 individuals, pregnant women, children under six years of age, and  
2 households making 80 percent or less of the area median income;

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

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

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

11 (f) Recommend adaptation strategies for buildings, including  
12 plans for government assistance such as subsidies and incentives for  
13 heat pumps, portable cooling units, and passive heat mitigation, as  
14 well as recommendations for private individual adaptations;

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

18 (h) Ensure that the county acknowledges the limitations of  
19 cooling centers and has adequate cooling strategies beyond such  
20 centers;

21 (i) Ensure that the heat response plans are integrated within  
22 existing emergency response frameworks; and

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

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

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

33 **Sec. 2.** RCW 70.05.060 and 1991 c 3 s 308 are each amended to  
34 read as follows:

35 Each local board of health shall have supervision over all  
36 matters pertaining to the preservation of the life and health of the  
37 people within its jurisdiction and shall:

38 (1) Enforce through the local health officer or the  
39 administrative officer appointed under RCW 70.05.040, if any, the

1 public health statutes of the state and rules promulgated by the  
2 state board of health and the secretary of health;

3 (2) Supervise the maintenance of all health and sanitary measures  
4 for the protection of the public health within its jurisdiction;

5 (3) Enact such local rules and regulations as are necessary in  
6 order to preserve, promote and improve the public health and provide  
7 for the enforcement thereof;

8 (4) Provide for the control and prevention of any dangerous,  
9 contagious or infectious disease within the jurisdiction of the local  
10 health department;

11 (5) Provide for the prevention, control and abatement of  
12 nuisances detrimental to the public health;

13 (6) Make such reports to the state board of health through the  
14 local health officer or the administrative officer as the state board  
15 of health may require; (~~and~~)

16 (7) Develop an extreme heat response plan as required in section  
17 1 of this act; and

18 (8) Establish fee schedules for issuing or renewing licenses or  
19 permits or for such other services as are authorized by the law and  
20 the rules of the state board of health: PROVIDED, That such fees for  
21 services shall not exceed the actual cost of providing any such  
22 services.

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