

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1539

69th Legislature
2025 Regular Session

Passed by the House April 18, 2025
Yeas 94 Nays 1

**Speaker of the House of
Representatives**

Passed by the Senate April 2, 2025
Yeas 49 Nays 0

President of the Senate

Approved

Governor of the State of Washington

CERTIFICATE

I, Bernard Dean, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1539** as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

Chief Clerk

FILED

**Secretary of State
State of Washington**

SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1539

AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

Passed Legislature - 2025 Regular Session

State of Washington 69th Legislature 2025 Regular Session

By House Agriculture & Natural Resources (originally sponsored by Representatives Reeves, Dent, Springer, Walen, Ryu, Ramel, Bernbaum, and Salahuddin)

READ FIRST TIME 02/18/25.

1 AN ACT Relating to wildfire risk; creating a new section; and
2 providing an expiration date.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) A work group to study and make
5 recommendations on wildfire mitigation and resiliency standards is
6 hereby created. The work group membership shall be composed of:

7 (a) The insurance commissioner or his or her designee, who shall
8 serve as the cochair of the work group;

9 (b) The commissioner of public lands for the department of
10 natural resources or his or her designee, who shall serve as the
11 cochair of the work group;

12 (c) Four representatives from the property and casualty insurance
13 industry, to be selected by the insurance commissioner and
14 commissioner of public lands for the department of natural resources,
15 or their designees through an application process, which must be
16 completed by August 1, 2025;

17 (d) One representative from the insurance institute for business
18 and home safety;

19 (e) One representative from local emergency management as
20 nominated by the Washington state emergency management council;

1 (f) One representative from the Washington fire chiefs
2 association;

3 (g) The following ex officio members:

4 (i) One member from each of the two largest caucuses of the house
5 of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of
6 representatives; and

7 (ii) One member from each of the two largest caucuses of the
8 senate, appointed by the president of the senate;

9 (h) Other state agency representatives or stakeholder group
10 representatives, at the discretion of the work group, for the purpose
11 of participating in specific topic discussions or subcommittees;

12 (i) One representative of small forest landowners;

13 (j) One representative of rural landowners;

14 (k) One representative of the real estate industry;

15 (l) One representative of consumer-owned electric utilities; and

16 (m) One representative of investor-owned electric utilities.

17 (2) Staff support for the work group must be provided by the
18 office of the insurance commissioner.

19 (3) The work group shall study and develop recommendations for
20 the following:

21 (a)(i) Coordinating the department of natural resources' existing
22 wildfire property mitigation standards, or development of standards,
23 with nationally recognized, science-based, wildfire mitigation
24 standards, and (ii) aligning state wildfire property mitigation
25 standards with nationally recognized, science-based, wildfire
26 mitigation standards;

27 (b) Enhancing wildfire mitigation at the community level;

28 (c) Sharing of relevant data between appropriate state agencies
29 and the insurance industry with respect to successful implementation
30 of existing wildfire mitigation efforts, including the identification
31 of gaps in existing wildfire mitigation that may be addressed through
32 (a)(i) of this subsection (3) and wildfire risk assessment tools,
33 which must include coordination with the department of health
34 regarding its environmental health disparities map;

35 (d) Improving transparency for consumers regarding wildfire
36 hazard and risk, including through disclosures to policyholders for
37 insurance policy nonrenewals primarily related to wildfire risk, with
38 the intent of increasing the availability of insurance, decreasing
39 nonrenewals, and enhancing market stability that is informed by
40 industry and consumer data; and

1 (e) Establishing a grant program to provide grants to Washington
2 homeowners for purposes including, but not limited to, retrofitting
3 residential property to resist loss due to wildfire and evaluating
4 whether residential property meets nationally recognized, science-
5 based, wildfire mitigation standards. The work group must include
6 recommendations for:

7 (i) A grant program framework that will promote a decrease in the
8 number of nonrenewals of consumer general casualty insurance or
9 property insurance policies; and

10 (ii) Whether and how local fire protection districts may
11 collaborate with the grant program administrator.

12 (4) The work group shall submit, in compliance with RCW
13 43.01.036, a report of recommendations to the legislature, the
14 insurance commissioner, and the department of natural resources, by
15 December 1, 2025.

16 (5) This section expires December 31, 2025.

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