

**Title 38 RCW  
MILITIA AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**

**Chapters**

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- 38.08 Powers and duties of governor.
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*Right to bear arms: State Constitution Art. 1 § 24.*

*Special act relating to aerospace science and modeling center at Camp  
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**SPECIAL ACTS RELATING TO ARMORIES:** *The following special or temporary  
acts relating to particular armories are not codified herein:*

- (1) 1959 c 181; 1961 c 135; 1963 c 146, Seattle.
- (2) 1967 c 37, Prosser.
- (3) 1967 c 43, Centralia.
- (4) 1967 c 44, Chewelah.
- (5) 1967 c 214, Stevens County.
- (6) 1967 c 224, Tacoma and Pierce County.
- (7) 1967 c 226, Yakima.
- (8) 1969 ex.s. c 22, Kirkland.

*Special legislation: State Constitution Art. 2 § 28(2).*

*Standing army in time of peace prohibited: State Constitution Art. 1 § 31.*

*State flag furnished to armed forces: RCW 1.20.010.*

*State militia: State Constitution Art. 10.*

*Veterans and veterans' affairs: Title 73 RCW.*

*Washington national guard postsecondary education grant program:  
Chapter 28B.103 RCW.*

**Chapter 38.04 RCW**  
**GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**Sections**

- 38.04.010 General definitions.
- 38.04.020 "Officer," "enlisted persons" defined—Convictions and punishments.
- 38.04.030 Composition of the militia.
- 38.04.040 Composition of organized militia.

*Acknowledgments and powers of attorney of military personnel: Chapter 73.20 RCW.*

*Military personnel classified as resident students: RCW 28B.15.014.*

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**RCW 38.04.010 General definitions.** When used in this title, the following words, terms, phrases shall have the following meaning:

The word "militia" shall mean the military forces provided for in the Constitution and laws of the state of Washington.

The term "organized militia" shall be the general term to include both state and national guard and whenever used applies equally to all such organizations.

The term "national guard" shall mean that part of the military force of the state that is organized, equipped and federally recognized under the provisions of the national defense act of the United States, and, in the event the national guard is called into federal service or in the event the state guard or any part or individual member thereof is called into active state service by the commander-in-chief, the term shall also include the "Washington state guard" or any temporary organization set up in times of emergency to replace either the "national guard" or "state guard" while in actual service of the United States.

The term "state guard" shall mean that part of the military forces of the state that is organized, equipped, and recognized under the provisions of the State Defense Forces Act of the United States (32 U.S.C. Sec. 109, as amended).

The term "active state service" or "active training duty" shall be construed to be any service on behalf of the state, or at encampments whether ordered by state or federal authority or any other duty requiring the entire time of any organization or person except when called or drafted into the federal service by the president of the United States.

The term "inactive duty" shall include periods of drill and such other training and service not requiring the entire time of the organization or person, as may be required under state or federal laws, regulations, or orders, including travel to and from such duty.

The terms "in service of United States" and "not in service of United States" as used herein shall be understood to mean the same as such terms when used in the national defense act of congress and amendments thereto.

The term "military" refers to any or all of the armed forces.

The term "armory" refers to any state-owned building, warehouse, vehicle storage compound, organizational maintenance shop or other facility and the lands appurtenant thereto used by the Washington

national guard for the storage and maintenance of arms or military equipment or the administration or training of the organized militia.

The term "member" refers to a soldier or airman of the organized militia. [1991 c 43 § 1; 1989 c 19 § 1; 1963 c 220 § 133; 1943 c 130 § 12; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 8603-12. Prior: 1917 c 107 §§ 1, part, 3, part; 1909 c 134 § 10, part; 1895 c 108 § 10, part.]

**Short title:** "This act shall be known as the Military Code of the state of Washington." [1943 c 130 § 1.]

**Severability—1943 c 130:** "If any provisions of this act or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid for any reason, such determination shall not affect other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, and to this end, the provisions of this act are declared to be severable." [1943 c 130 § 95.]

*Martial law: RCW 38.08.030.*

**RCW 38.04.020 "Officer," "enlisted persons" defined—Convictions and punishments.** Whenever used in this title, the word "officer" shall be understood to designate commissioned and warrant officers, and the words "enlisted persons" shall be understood to designate members of the organized militia of Washington other than commissioned or warrant officers. The convictions and punishments mentioned unless otherwise specifically designated, shall be understood to be respectively convictions and punishments by military courts. [2009 c 549 § 1011; 1989 c 19 § 2; 1943 c 130 § 80; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 8603-80. Prior: 1917 c 107 § 60.]

**RCW 38.04.030 Composition of the militia.** The militia of the state of Washington shall consist of all able bodied citizens of the United States and all other able bodied persons who have declared their intention to become citizens of the United States, residing within this state, who shall be more than eighteen years of age, and shall include all persons who are members of the national guard and the state guard, and said militia shall be divided into two classes, the organized militia and the unorganized militia. [1989 c 19 § 3; 1973 1st ex.s. c 154 § 55; 1963 c 74 § 1; 1943 c 130 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 8603-2. Prior: 1917 c 107 § 1; 1909 c 134 § 2; 1895 c 108 § 2.]

**Severability—1973 1st ex.s. c 154:** See note following RCW 2.12.030.

*Militia—Who liable to military duty: State Constitution Art. 10 § 1.*

**RCW 38.04.040 Composition of organized militia.** The organized militia of Washington shall consist of the commissioned officers, warrant officers, enlisted persons, organizations, staffs, corps, and departments of the regularly commissioned, warranted and enlisted militia of the state, organized and maintained pursuant to law. Its numerical strength, composition, distribution, organization, arms, uniforms, equipment, training and discipline shall be prescribed by

the governor in conformity with, and subject to the limitations imposed by the laws and regulations of the United States and the laws of this state: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That the minimum enlisted strength of the organized militia of this state shall never be less than two thousand. The organized militia may include persons residing outside the state of Washington. [1989 c 19 § 4; 1943 c 130 § 4; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 8603-4. Prior: 1917 c 107 § 3. Cf. 1909 c 108 § 10, part; 1895 c 108 § 10, part.]

**Chapter 38.08 RCW**  
**POWERS AND DUTIES OF GOVERNOR**

**Sections**

- 38.08.010 Conformance with federal laws.
- 38.08.020 Governor as commander-in-chief—Adjutant general executive head.
- 38.08.030 Proclamation of complete or limited martial law.
- 38.08.040 Governor may order out organized militia.
- 38.08.050 Governor may order out unorganized militia.
- 38.08.060 Governor's decision final.
- 38.08.070 Personal staff for governor.
- 38.08.090 Governor to promulgate rules.
- 38.08.100 Compacts with other states for guarding boundaries.
- 38.08.500 National guard mutual assistance counter-drug activities compact.

*Commander-in-chief: State Constitution Art. 3 § 8.*

*Commander-in-chief may order enrollment: RCW 38.44.010.*

*Militia—Organization—Discipline—Officers—Power to call out: State Constitution Art. 10 § 2.*

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*Commander-in-chief: State Constitution Art. 3 § 8.*

*Commander-in-chief may order enrollment: RCW 38.44.010.*

*Militia—Organization—Discipline—Officers—Power to call out: State Constitution Art. 10 § 2.*

**RCW 38.08.010 Conformance with federal laws.** The governor shall cause the organized militia of this state at all times to conform to all federal laws and regulations as are now or may hereafter from time to time become operative and applicable, notwithstanding anything in the laws of this state to the contrary. Except as and when otherwise specifically provided by federal laws, the organized militia of Washington, or any part thereof, shall be subject to call for United States service at such times, in such manner, and in such numbers as may from time to time be prescribed by the United States.

In conformity with the provisions of federal statutes, officers and enlisted persons of the organized militia called or drafted into federal service by order or proclamation of the president of the United States, shall upon release from federal service revert to their former status, grade and rank, as members of the organized militia of Washington, and shall continue to serve in the organized militia of Washington until separated therefrom in the manner provided by law. [1989 c 19 § 5; 1943 c 130 § 5; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 8603-5. Prior: 1921 c 75 § 1; 1917 c 107 § 4; 1909 c 134 § 93; 1895 c 108 § 170.]

**RCW 38.08.020 Governor as commander-in-chief—Adjutant general executive head.** The militia of the state not in the service of the United States shall be governed and its affairs administered pursuant to law, by the governor, as commander-in-chief, through the adjutant general's department, of which the adjutant general shall be the executive head. [1961 c 210 § 1; 1943 c 130 § 3; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 8603-3. Prior: 1917 c 107 § 2; 1909 c 134 §§ 13, 14; 1895 c 108 § 13.]

*Governor commander-in-chief: State Constitution Art. 3 § 8.*



**RCW 38.08.030 Proclamation of complete or limited martial law.**

The governor may by proclamation declare the county or city in which troops are serving, or any specific portion thereof, to be under either complete or limited martial law to the extent, in his or her opinion, that the reestablishment or maintenance of law and order may be promoted.

"Complete martial law" is the subordination of all civil authority to the military;

"Limited military law" is a partial subordination of civil authority by the setting up of an additional police power vested in the military force which shall have the right to try all persons apprehended by it in such area by a military tribunal or turn such offender over to civil authorities within five days for further action, during which time the writ of habeas corpus shall be suspended in behalf of such person. [1989 c 19 § 6; 1943 c 130 § 8; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 8603-8.]

**RCW 38.08.040 Governor may order out organized militia.**

In event of war, insurrection, rebellion, invasion, tumult, riot, mob, or organized body acting together by force with intent to commit a felony or to offer violence to persons or property, or by force and violence to break and resist the laws of this state, or the United States, or in case of the imminent danger of the occurrence of any of said events, or at the lawful request of competent state or local authority in support of enforcement of controlled substance statutes, or whenever responsible civil authorities shall, for any reason, fail to preserve law and order, or protect life or property, or the governor believes that such failure is imminent, or in event of public disaster, or when otherwise required for the public health, safety, or welfare, or to perform any military duty authorized by state law, or to prepare for or recover from any of these events or the consequences thereof, the governor shall have power to order the organized militia of Washington, or any part thereof, into active service of the state to execute the laws, and to perform such duty as the governor shall deem proper. [2005 c 9 § 1; 1993 c 263 § 1; 1989 c 19 § 7; 1943 c 130 § 6; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 8603-6. Prior: 1917 c 107 § 7; 1913 c 66 § 2; 1909 c 134 § 15.]

**Effective date—2005 c 9:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [March 28, 2005]." [2005 c 9 § 3.]

**RCW 38.08.050 Governor may order out unorganized militia.**

In event of, or imminent danger of, war, insurrection, rebellion, invasion, tumult, riot, resistance to law or process or breach of the peace, if the governor shall have ordered into active service all of the available forces of the organized militia of Washington and shall consider them insufficient in number to properly accomplish the purpose, he or she may then in addition order out the unorganized militia or such portion thereof as he may deem necessary, and cause them to perform such military duty as the circumstances may require. [1989 c 19 § 8; 1943 c 130 § 9; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 8603-9. Prior: 1917 c 107 § 9; 1909 c 134 § 17; 1903 c 155 § 15; 1895 c 108 § 112.]

**RCW 38.08.060 Governor's decision final.** Whenever any portion of the militia is ordered to duty by the governor, the decision of the governor shall be final, incontrovertible, and unimpeachable.

Whenever any portion of the militia has been ordered out by the governor, it shall be deemed that local law and order and the enforcement thereof has failed, and that the militia shall become an additional police power, retaining its separate entity and operating at all times as a military organization under military command, to cooperate with existing peace forces wherever possible, for the reestablishment of law and order and for the protection of life and property. [1943 c 130 § 7; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 8603-7.]

**RCW 38.08.070 Personal staff for governor.** Whenever the governor shall desire the attendance of a personal staff upon any occasion, he or she shall detail therefor officers from the active list of the organized militia of Washington; the officers detailed shall attend in uniform and shall constitute the personal staff of the governor for that occasion, reverting upon completion of such duty to their regular assignments. [1989 c 19 § 9; 1943 c 130 § 15; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 8603-15. Prior: 1917 c 107 § 6; 1909 c 134 § 14. Cf. 1895 c 108 § 13, part.]

**RCW 38.08.090 Governor to promulgate rules.** The governor, through the adjutant general, shall promulgate in orders such rules and amendments not inconsistent with law as the governor may deem necessary for the organization, maintenance and training of the militia, and the acquisition, use, issue or disposal of military property. The governor's regulatory powers herein with respect to military property shall include reasonable authority to make regulations controlling the use and temporary disposal of military property including real property for civic purposes where consistent with federal law and regulations, in a manner similar to the law pertaining to the use of armories. The adopted regulations shall have the same force and effect as if enacted. [1989 c 19 § 10; 1969 ex.s. c 86 § 1; 1943 c 130 § 92; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 8603-92. Prior: 1917 c 107 § 123; 1909 c 134 § 94; 1895 c 108 § 171.]

*Commander-in-chief authorized to make rules for specific armories (special or temporary acts not codified in this title):*

- (1) 1907 c 55 § 11, Armories at Seattle, Spokane and Tacoma;
- (2) 1909 c 68 § 10, Armory at Bellingham;
- (3) 1913 c 67 § 9, Armory at North Yakima;
- (4) 1917 c 108 § 9, Armory at Walla Walla;
- (5) 1917 c 109 § 9, Armory at Aberdeen;
- (6) 1917 c 166 § 9, Armory at Everett.

**RCW 38.08.100 Compacts with other states for guarding boundaries.** The governor, with consent of congress, is authorized to enter into compacts and agreements with governors of bordering states concerning guarding and patrol of bridges crossing the common boundaries of said states, and for the patrol of said common boundaries. In any such compact or agreement the governor is authorized to permit militia of any bordering state to enter into areas of this state adjacent to said border, or to send militia of

this state into areas of any bordering state adjacent to the common boundary as may be necessary to provide effective protection. [1951 c 253 § 1.]

**RCW 38.08.500 National guard mutual assistance counter-drug activities compact.** (1) The governor, with the consent of congress, is authorized to enter into compacts and agreements for the deployment of the national guard with governors of other states concerning drug interdiction, counter-drug, and demand reduction activities. Article 1, section 10 of the Constitution of the United States permits a state to enter into a compact or agreement with another state, subject to the consent of congress. Congress, through enactment of Title 4 of the U.S.C. Section 112, encourages the states to enter such compacts for cooperative effort and mutual assistance.

(2) The compact language contained in this subsection is intended to deal comprehensively with the supportive relationships between states in utilizing national guard assets in counter-drug activities.

NATIONAL GUARD MUTUAL ASSISTANCE  
COUNTER-DRUG ACTIVITIES COMPACT

ARTICLE I  
PURPOSE

The purposes of this compact are to:

(a) Provide for mutual assistance and support among the party states in the utilization of the national guard in drug interdiction, counter-drug, and demand reduction activities.

(b) Permit the national guard of this state to enter into mutual assistance and support agreements, on the basis of need, with one or more law enforcement agencies operating within this state, for activities within this state, or with a national guard of one or more other states, whether said activities are within or without this state in order to facilitate and coordinate efficient, cooperative enforcement efforts directed toward drug interdiction, counter-drug activities, and demand reduction.

(c) Permit the national guard of this state to act as a receiving and a responding state as defined within this compact and to ensure the prompt and effective delivery of national guard personnel, assets, and services to agencies or areas that are in need of increased support and presence.

(d) Permit and encourage a high degree of flexibility in the deployment of national guard forces in the interest of efficiency.

(e) Maximize the effectiveness of the national guard in those situations that call for its utilization under this compact.

(f) Provide protection for the rights of national guard personnel when performing duty in other states in counter-drug activities.

(g) Ensure uniformity of state laws in the area of national guard involvement in interstate counter-drug activities by incorporating said uniform laws within the compact.

ARTICLE II  
ENTRY INTO FORCE AND WITHDRAWAL

(a) This compact shall enter into force when enacted into law by any two states. Thereafter, this compact shall become effective as to any other state upon its enactment thereof.

(b) Any party state may withdraw from this compact by enacting a statute repealing the same, but no such withdrawal shall take effect until one year after the governor of the withdrawing state has given notice in writing of such withdrawal to the governors of all other party states.

ARTICLE III  
MUTUAL ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT

(a) As used in this article:

(1) "Drug interdiction and counter-drug activities" means the use of national guard personnel, while not in federal service, in any law enforcement support activities that are intended to reduce the supply or use of illegal drugs in the United States. These activities include, but are not limited to:

(i) Providing information obtained during either the normal course of military training or operations or during counter-drug activities, to federal, state, or local law enforcement officials that may be relevant to a violation of any federal or state law within the jurisdiction of such officials;

(ii) Making available any equipment, including associated supplies or spare parts, base facilities, or research facilities of the national guard to any federal, state, or local civilian law enforcement official for law enforcement purposes, in accordance with other applicable law or regulation;

(iii) Providing available national guard personnel to train federal, state, or local civilian law enforcement in the operation and maintenance of equipment, including equipment made available above, in accordance with other applicable law;

(iv) Providing available national guard personnel to operate and maintain equipment provided to federal, state, or local law enforcement officials pursuant to activities defined and referred to in this compact;

(v) Operation and maintenance of equipment and facilities of the national guard or law enforcement agencies used for the purposes of drug interdiction and counter-drug activities;

(vi) Providing available national guard personnel to operate equipment for the detection, monitoring, and communication of the movement of air, land, and sea traffic, to facilitate communications in connection with law enforcement programs, to provide transportation for civilian law enforcement personnel, and to operate bases of operations for civilian law enforcement personnel;

(vii) Providing available national guard personnel, equipment, and support for administrative, interpretive, analytic, or other purposes;

(viii) Providing available national guard personnel and equipment to aid federal, state, and local officials and agencies otherwise involved in the prosecution or incarceration of individuals processed within the criminal justice system who have been arrested for criminal acts involving the use, distribution, or transportation of controlled substances as defined in 21 U.S.C. Sec. 801 et seq., or otherwise by law, in accordance with other applicable law.

(2) "Demand reduction" means providing available national guard personnel, equipment, support, and coordination to federal, state, local, and civic organizations, institutions and agencies for the purposes of the prevention of drug abuse and the reduction in the demand for illegal drugs.

(3) "Requesting state" means the state whose governor requested assistance in the area of counter-drug activities.

(4) "Responding state" means the state furnishing assistance, or requested to furnish assistance, in the area of counter-drug activities.

(5) "Law enforcement agency" means a lawfully established federal, state, or local public agency that is responsible for the prevention and detection of crime and the enforcement of penal, traffic, regulatory, game, immigration, postal, customs, or controlled substances laws.

(6) "Official" means the appointed, elected, designated, or otherwise duly selected representative of an agency, institution, or organization authorized to conduct those activities for which support is requested.

(7) "Mutual assistance and support agreement" or "agreement" means an agreement between the national guard of this state and one or more law enforcement agencies or between the national guard of this state and the national guard of one or more other states, consistent with the purposes of this compact.

(8) "Party state" refers to a state that has lawfully enacted this compact.

(9) "State" means each of the several states of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or a territory or possession of the United States.

(b) Upon the request of a governor of a party state for assistance in the area of interdiction and counter-drug, and demand reduction activities, the governor of a responding state shall have authority under this compact to send without the borders of his or her state and place under the temporary operational control of the appropriate national guard or other military authorities of the requesting state, for the purposes of providing such requested assistance, all or any part of the national guard forces of his or her state as he or she may deem necessary, and the exercise of his or her discretion in this regard shall be conclusive.

(c) The governor of a party state may, within his or her discretion, withhold the national guard forces of his or her state from such use and recall any forces or part or member thereof previously deployed in a requesting state.

(d) The national guard of this state is hereby authorized to engage in interdiction and counter-drug activities and demand reduction.

(e) The adjutant general of this state, in order to further the purposes of this compact, may enter into a mutual assistance and support agreement with one or more law enforcement agencies of this state, including federal law enforcement agencies operating within this state, or with the national guard of one or more other party states to provide personnel, assets, and services in the area of interdiction and counter-drug activities and demand reduction. However, no such agreement may be entered into with a party that is specifically prohibited by law from performing activities that are the subject of the agreement.

(f) The agreement must set forth the powers, rights, and obligations of the parties to the agreement, where applicable, as follows:

(1) Its duration;

(2) The organization, composition, and nature of any separate legal entity created thereby;

- (3) The purpose of the agreement;
- (4) The manner of financing the agreement and establishing and maintaining its budget;
- (5) The method to be employed in accomplishing the partial or complete termination of the agreement and for disposing of property upon such partial or complete termination;
- (6) Provision for administering the agreement, which may include creation of a joint board responsible for such administration;
- (7) The manner of acquiring, holding, and disposing of real and personal property used in this agreement, if necessary;
- (8) The minimum standards for national guard personnel implementing the provisions of this agreement;
- (9) The minimum insurance required of each party to the agreement, if necessary;
- (10) The chain of command or delegation of authority to be followed by national guard personnel acting under the provisions of the agreement;
- (11) The duties and authority that the national guard personnel of each party state may exercise; and
- (12) Any other necessary and proper matters.

Agreements prepared under the provisions of this section are exempt from any general law pertaining to intergovernmental agreements.

(g) As a condition precedent to an agreement becoming effective under this part, the agreement must be submitted to and receive the approval of the office of the attorney general of Washington. The attorney general of the state of Washington may delegate his or her approval authority to the appropriate attorney for the Washington national guard subject to those conditions which he or she decides are appropriate. The delegation must be in writing and is subject to the following:

- (1) The attorney general, or his or her agent as stated above, shall approve an agreement submitted to him or her under this part unless he or she finds that it is not in proper form, does not meet the requirements set forth in this part, or otherwise does not conform to the laws of Washington. If the attorney general disapproves an agreement, he or she shall provide a written explanation to the adjutant general of the Washington national guard; and
- (2) If the attorney general, or his or her authorized agent as stated above, does not disapprove an agreement within thirty days after its submission to him or her, it is considered approved by him or her.

(h) Whenever national guard forces of any party state are engaged in the performance of duties, in the area of drug interdiction, counter-drug, and demand reduction activities, pursuant to orders, they shall not be held personally liable for any acts or omissions which occur during the performance of their duty.

#### ARTICLE IV RESPONSIBILITIES

(a) Nothing in this compact shall be construed as a waiver of any benefits, privileges, immunities, or rights otherwise provided for national guard personnel performing duty pursuant to Title 32 of the United States Code nor shall anything in this compact be construed as a waiver of coverage provided for under the Federal Tort Claims Act. In the event that national guard personnel performing counter-drug activities do not receive rights, benefits, privileges, and immunities

otherwise provided for national guard personnel as stated above, the following provisions shall apply:

(1) Whenever national guard forces of any responding state are engaged in another state in carrying out the purposes of this compact, the members thereof so engaged shall have the same powers, duties, rights, privileges, and immunities as members of national guard forces of the requesting state. The requesting state shall save and hold members of the national guard forces of responding states harmless from civil liability, except as otherwise provided herein, for acts or omissions that occur in the performance of their duty while engaged in carrying out the purposes of this compact, whether responding forces are serving the requesting state within the borders of the responding state or are attached to the requesting state for purposes of operational control.

(2) Subject to the provisions of paragraphs (3), (4), and (5) of this Article, all liability that may arise under the laws of the requesting state or the responding states, on account of or in connection with a request for assistance or support, shall be assumed and borne by the requesting state.

(3) Any responding state rendering aid or assistance pursuant to this compact shall be reimbursed by the requesting state for any loss or damage to, or expense incurred in the operation of, any equipment answering a request for aid, and for the cost of the materials, transportation, and maintenance of national guard personnel and equipment incurred in connection with such request, provided that nothing herein contained shall prevent any responding state from assuming such loss, damage, expense, or other cost.

(4) Unless there is a written agreement to the contrary, each party state shall provide, in the same amounts and manner as if they were on duty within their state, for pay and allowances of the personnel of its national guard units while engaged without the state pursuant to this compact and while going to and returning from such duty pursuant to this compact.

(5) Each party state providing for the payment of compensation and death benefits to injured members and the representatives of deceased members of its national guard forces in case such members sustain injuries or are killed within their own state shall provide for the payment of compensation and death benefits in the same manner and on the same terms in the event such members sustain injury or are killed while rendering assistance or support pursuant to this compact. Such benefits and compensation shall be deemed items of expense reimbursable pursuant to paragraph (3) of this Article.

(b) Officers and enlisted personnel of the national guard performing duties subject to proper orders pursuant to this compact shall be subject to and governed by the provisions of their home state code of military justice whether they are performing duties within or without their home state. In the event that any national guard member commits, or is suspected of committing, a criminal offense while performing duties pursuant to this compact without his or her home state, he or she may be returned immediately to his or her home state and said home state shall be responsible for any disciplinary action to be taken. However, nothing in this section shall abrogate the general criminal jurisdiction of the state in which the offense occurred.

#### ARTICLE V DELEGATION

Nothing in this compact shall be construed to prevent the governor of a party state from delegating any of his or her responsibilities or authority respecting the national guard, provided that such delegation is otherwise in accordance with law. For purposes of this compact, however, the governor shall not delegate the power to request assistance from another state.

ARTICLE VI  
LIMITATIONS

Nothing in this compact shall:

(a) Authorize or permit national guard units or personnel to be placed under the operational control of any person not having the national guard rank or status required by law for the command in question.

(b) Deprive a properly convened court of jurisdiction over an offense or a defendant merely because of the fact that the national guard, while performing duties pursuant to this compact, was utilized in achieving an arrest or indictment.

ARTICLE VII  
CONSTRUCTION AND SEVERABILITY

This compact shall be liberally construed so as to effectuate the purposes thereof. The provisions of this compact shall be severable and if any phrase, clause, sentence, or provision of this compact is declared to be contrary to the Constitution of the United States or of any state or the applicability thereof to any government, agency, person, or circumstance is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this compact and the applicability thereof to any government, agency, person, or circumstance shall not be affected thereby. If this compact shall be held contrary to the constitution of any state participating herein, the compact shall remain in full force and effect as to the remaining party states and in full force and effect as to the state affected as to all severable matters. [1993 c 263 § 2.]



**Chapter 38.10 RCW**  
**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE COMPACT**

**Sections**

38.10.010 Emergency management assistance compact.

*Emergency volunteer health practitioners: Chapter 70.15 RCW.*

**Chapter 38.10 RCW**  
**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE COMPACT**

**Sections**

38.10.010 Emergency management assistance compact.

*Emergency volunteer health practitioners: Chapter 70.15 RCW.*

**RCW 38.10.010 Emergency management assistance compact.** The emergency management assistance compact is enacted and entered into by this state with all other states legally joining the compact in the form substantially as follows:

ARTICLE I  
PURPOSES AND AUTHORITIES

This compact is made and entered into by and between the participating party states which enact this compact. For the purposes of this agreement, the term "states" means the several states, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, and all United States territorial possessions.

The purpose of this compact is to provide for mutual assistance between the states entering into this compact in managing any emergency or disaster that is duly declared by the governor of the affected state or states, whether arising from natural disaster, technological hazard, man-made disaster, civil emergency aspects of resources shortages, community disorders, insurgency, or enemy attack.

This compact shall also provide for mutual cooperation in emergency-related exercises, testing, or other training activities using equipment and personnel simulating performance of any aspect of the giving and receiving of aid by party states or subdivisions of party states during emergencies, such actions occurring outside actual declared emergency periods. Mutual assistance in this compact may include the use of the states' national guard forces, either in accordance with the national guard mutual assistance compact, or by mutual agreement between states.

ARTICLE II  
GENERAL IMPLEMENTATION

Each party state entering into this compact recognizes many emergencies transcend political jurisdictional boundaries and that intergovernmental coordination is essential in managing these and other emergencies under this compact. Each state further recognizes that there will be emergencies which require immediate access and present procedures to apply outside resources to make a prompt and effective response to the emergency. This is because few, if any, individual states have all the resources they may need in all types of emergencies or the capability of delivering resources to areas where emergencies exist.

The prompt, full, and effective utilization of resources of the participating states, including any resources on hand or available from the federal government or any other source, that are essential to the safety, care, and welfare of the people in the event of any emergency or disaster declared by a party state, shall be the underlying principle on which all articles of this compact shall be understood.

On behalf of the governor of each state participating in the compact, the legally designated state official who is assigned responsibility for emergency management will be responsible for formulation of the appropriate interstate mutual aid plans and procedures necessary to implement this compact.

ARTICLE III  
PARTY STATE RESPONSIBILITIES

(1) It shall be the responsibility of each party state to formulate procedural plans and programs for interstate cooperation in the performance of the responsibilities listed in this article. In formulating such plans, and in carrying them out, the party states, as is practical, shall:

(a) Review individual state hazards analyses and, to the extent reasonably possible, determine all those potential emergencies the party states might jointly suffer, whether due to natural disaster, technological hazard, man-made disaster, emergency aspects of resource shortages, civil disorders, insurgency, or enemy attack;

(b) Review party states' individual emergency plans and develop a plan which will determine the mechanism for the interstate management and provision of assistance concerning any potential emergency;

(c) Develop interstate procedures to fill any identified gaps and to resolve any identified inconsistencies or overlaps in existing or developed plans;

(d) Assist in warning communities adjacent to or crossing the state boundaries;

(e) Protect and assure uninterrupted delivery of services, medicines, water, food, energy and fuel, search and rescue, and critical lifeline equipment, services, and resources, both human and material;

(f) Inventory and set procedures for the interstate loan and delivery of human and material resources, together with procedures for reimbursement or forgiveness;

(g) Provide, to the extent authorized by law, for temporary suspension of any statutes or ordinances that restrict the implementation of the responsibilities listed in this compact.

(2) The authorized representative of a party state may request assistance of another party state by contacting the authorized representative of that state. The provisions of this agreement shall only apply to requests for assistance made by and to authorized representatives. Requests may be verbal or in writing. If verbal, the request shall be confirmed in writing within thirty days of the verbal request. Requests shall provide the following information:

(a) A description of the emergency services function for which assistance is needed, such as, but not limited to, fire services, law enforcement, emergency medical, transportation, communications, public works and engineering, building inspection, planning and information assistance, mass care, resource support, health and medical services, and search and rescue;

(b) The amount and type of personnel, equipment, materials, and supplies needed, and a reasonable estimate of the length of time they will be needed;

(c) The specific place and time for staging of the assisting party's response and a point of contact at that location.

(3) There shall be frequent consultation between state officials who have assigned emergency management responsibilities and other appropriate representatives of the party states with affected

jurisdictions and the United States government, with free exchange of information, plans, and resource records relating to emergency capabilities.

#### ARTICLE IV LIMITATIONS

Any party state requested to render mutual aid or conduct exercises and training for mutual aid shall take such action as is necessary to provide and make available the resources covered by this compact in accordance with the terms of this compact. However, it is understood that the state rendering aid may withhold resources to the extent necessary to provide reasonable protection for the state. Each party state shall afford to the emergency forces of any party state, while operating within its state limits under the terms and conditions of this compact, the same powers except that of arrest unless specifically authorized by the receiving state, duties, rights, and privileges as are afforded forces of the state in which they are performing emergency services. Emergency forces will continue under the command and control of their regular leaders, but the organizational units will come under the operational control of the emergency services authorities of the state receiving assistance. These conditions may be activated, as needed, only subsequent to a declaration of a state of emergency or disaster by the governor of the party state that is to receive assistance or commencement of exercises or training for mutual aid and shall continue so long as the exercise or training for mutual aid are in progress, the state of emergency or disaster remains in effect, or loaned resources remain in the receiving state or states, whichever is longer.

#### ARTICLE V LICENSES AND PERMITS

Whenever any person holds a license, certificate, or other permit issued by any state party to the compact evidencing the meeting of qualifications for professional, mechanical, or other skills, and when such assistance is requested by the receiving party state, such person shall be deemed licensed, certified, or permitted by the state requesting assistance to render aid involving such skill to meet a declared emergency or disaster, subject to such limitations and conditions as the governor of the requesting state may prescribe by executive order or otherwise.

#### ARTICLE VI LIABILITY

Officers or employees of a party state rendering aid in another state under this compact shall be considered agents of the requesting state for tort liability and immunity purposes; and no party state or its officers or employees rendering aid in another state under this compact shall be liable on account of any act or omission in good faith on the part of such forces while so engaged or on account of the maintenance or use of any equipment or supplies in connection therewith. Good faith in this article may not include willful misconduct, gross negligence, or recklessness.

#### ARTICLE VII SUPPLEMENTARY AGREEMENTS

Inasmuch as it is probable that the pattern and detail of the machinery for mutual aid among two or more states may differ from that

among the states that are party to this compact, this instrument contains elements of a broad base common to all states, and nothing in this compact shall preclude any state from entering into supplementary agreements with another state or affect any other agreements already in force between states. Supplementary agreements may comprehend, but shall not be limited to, provisions for evacuation and reception of injured and other persons and the exchange of medical, fire, police, public utility, reconnaissance, welfare, transportation and communications personnel, and equipment and supplies.

#### ARTICLE VIII COMPENSATION

Each party state shall provide for payment of compensation and death benefits to injured members of the emergency forces of that state and representatives of deceased members of such forces in case such members sustain injuries or are killed while rendering aid under this compact, in the same manner and on the same terms as if the injury or death were sustained within their own state.

#### ARTICLE IX REIMBURSEMENT

Any party state rendering aid in another state under this compact shall be reimbursed by the party state receiving the aid for any loss or damage to or expense incurred in the operation of any equipment and the provision of any service in answering a request for aid and for the costs incurred in connection with the requests. However, any aiding party state may assume in whole or in part the loss, damage, expense, or other cost, or may loan equipment or donate services to the receiving party state without charge or cost; and any two or more party states may enter into supplementary agreements establishing a different allocation of costs among those states. Article VIII expenses may not be reimbursable under this article.

#### ARTICLE X EVACUATION

Plans for the orderly evacuation and interstate reception of portions of the civilian population as the result of any emergency or disaster of sufficient proportions to so warrant, shall be worked out and maintained between the party states and the emergency management/ services directors of the various jurisdictions where any type of incident requiring evacuation might occur. The plans shall be put into effect by request of the state from which evacuees come and shall include the manner of transporting evacuees, the number of evacuees to be received in different areas, the manner in which food, clothing, housing, and medical care will be provided, the registration of evacuees, the providing of facilities for the notification of relatives or friends, and the forwarding of evacuees to other areas or the bringing in of additional materials, supplies, and all other relevant factors. Plans shall provide that the party state receiving evacuees and the party state from which the evacuees come shall mutually agree as to reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses incurred in receiving and caring for the evacuees, for expenditures for transportation, food, clothing, medicines and medical care, and like items. Expenditures shall be reimbursed as agreed by the party state from which the evacuees come. After the termination of the emergency or disaster, the party state from which the evacuees come shall assume

the responsibility for the ultimate support of repatriation of the evacuees.

ARTICLE XI  
IMPLEMENTATION

(1) This compact shall become operative immediately upon its enactment into law by any two states. After the first enactment, this compact shall become effective as to any other state upon its enactment by such state.

(2) Any party state may withdraw from this compact by enacting a statute repealing the compact, but no withdrawal may take effect until thirty days after the governor of the withdrawing state has given notice in writing of the withdrawal to the governors of all other party states. This action may not relieve the withdrawing state from obligations assumed under this compact before the effective date of withdrawal.

(3) Duly authenticated copies of this compact and such supplementary agreements as may be entered into shall, at the time of their approval, be deposited with each of the party states, and with the federal emergency management agency and other appropriate agencies of the United States government.

ARTICLE XII  
ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS

Nothing in this compact shall authorize or permit the use of military force by the national guard of a state at any place outside that state in any emergency for which the president is authorized by law to call into federal service the militia, or for any purpose for which the use of the army or the air force would in the absence of express statutory authorization be prohibited under 18 U.S.C. Sec. 1385. [2001 c 288 § 1.]

*Emergency volunteer health practitioners: Chapter 70.15 RCW.*

**Chapter 38.12 RCW**  
**MILITIA OFFICERS AND ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**Sections**

- 38.12.010 Adjutant general—Bond.
- 38.12.015 Department organized into separate divisions—Army national guard—Air national guard—Assistant adjutants general.
- 38.12.020 Powers and duties.
- 38.12.030 Adjutant general and assistant adjutants general—How chosen—Annual salaries—Members of judiciary eligible to serve in guard.
- 38.12.060 Officers to be commissioned by the governor.
- 38.12.070 Examining board.
- 38.12.095 Appointment or promotion of commissioned officers to be made by officer promotion board—Exceptions.
- 38.12.105 Criteria and guidelines for promotion of commissioned officers.
- 38.12.115 Officer promotion board—Meetings—Powers and duties.
- 38.12.125 Officer promotion board—Composition.
- 38.12.135 Officer promotion board—Official acts—Approval requirements—Rules.
- 38.12.150 Officer to take oath.
- 38.12.160 Oath, form of.
- 38.12.170 Termination of officers' membership—Review of retention potential.
- 38.12.180 Retirement of officers.
- 38.12.200 Uniform allowance to officers.

*Militia—Organization—Discipline—Officers—Power to call out: State Constitution Art. 10 § 2.*

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- 38.12.105 Criteria and guidelines for promotion of commissioned officers.
- 38.12.115 Officer promotion board—Meetings—Powers and duties.
- 38.12.125 Officer promotion board—Composition.
- 38.12.135 Officer promotion board—Official acts—Approval requirements—Rules.
- 38.12.150 Officer to take oath.
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- 38.12.180 Retirement of officers.
- 38.12.200 Uniform allowance to officers.

*Militia—Organization—Discipline—Officers—Power to call out: State Constitution Art. 10 § 2.*

**RCW 38.12.010 Adjutant general—Bond.** The governor, with the advice and consent of the senate, shall appoint an adjutant general who shall be chief of staff to the governor, and may be removed by the governor at will. The adjutant general shall appoint the civilian employees and other personnel of the department and may remove any of them in accordance with applicable law.

The expenses of the adjutant general's department, necessary to the military service, shall be audited, allowed, and paid as other military expenditures.

The adjutant general must execute an official bond running to the state in the penal sum of twenty thousand dollars conditioned for the faithful performance of his or her duties. The bond shall be submitted to the attorney general for approval, and when approved shall be filed in the office of the secretary of state. The cost of the bond shall be paid by the state.

The adjutant general may obtain and pay for, from funds appropriated for military purposes, a surety bond or bonds running to the state covering such officers of the organized militia responsible to the state for money or military property, as may be advisable to insure proper accountability. The bond or bonds shall be approved and filed in the same manner as the adjutant general's bond. [1989 c 19 § 11; 1981 c 338 § 3; 1957 c 250 § 2. Prior: 1943 c 130 § 16, part; 1917



c 107 § 11, part; 1913 c 66 § 4, part; 1909 c 134 § 27, part; 1901 c 78 § 4, part; 1895 c 108 § 38, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 8603-16, part.]

**RCW 38.12.015 Department organized into separate divisions—Army national guard—Air national guard—Assistant adjutants general.** The adjutant general's department shall be organized into separate divisions for the Washington army national guard and the Washington air national guard. Each division may have a general officer at its head who will be referred to as the assistant adjutant general for the Washington army national guard and the assistant adjutant general for the Washington air national guard. [1961 c 210 § 2.]

**RCW 38.12.020 Powers and duties.** The adjutant general shall:

(1) Subject to the orders of the commander-in-chief, command the Washington national guard and recruit, train, maintain, and administer the organized militia of the state of Washington.

(2) Supervise the preparation and submission of any records required by the federal government, the governor, or as otherwise required by law.

(3) Maintain records of the organized militia and state military department as required by law. The adjutant general shall deposit records with the state archivist for historical purposes.

(4) Cause to be published and distributed to the organized militia at state expense necessary documents or publications, to include the Washington code of military justice.

(5) Keep just and true accounts of all moneys received and disbursed by the military department.

(6) Attest all commissions issued to military officers of this state.

(7) Be the custodian of the seal of the office of adjutant general and deliver the same to his or her successor. All orders issued from the office of the adjutant general shall be authenticated with the seal. Orders or records under the seal shall be prima facie proof of certification or authenticity.

(8) Promulgate in orders such regulations pertaining to the operation and function of the state military department and organized militia, as in his or her opinion the conditions demand.

(9) Attend to the care, preservation, safekeeping, and repairing of all military property belonging to the state, or issued to the state by the United States for military purposes. Any property of the state military department which, after proper inspection, is found unsuitable or no longer needed for use of the organized militia shall be disposed of in such manner as the governor shall direct and the proceeds thereof used for replacements in kind or by other needed authorized military supplies, and the adjutant general may execute the necessary instruments of conveyance to effect such sale or disposal.

(10) Issue the military property as the necessity of service requires and make purchases for that purpose.

(11) Be the custodian of all military relics, trophies, colors, and histories now in possession of, or which may be acquired by, the state.

(12) Keep a record of all real property owned or used by the state for military purposes, and in connection therewith he or she shall have sole power to execute all leases to acquire the use of real

property by the state for military purposes, or lease it to other agencies for use for authorized activities. The adjutant general shall also have full power to execute and grant easements for rights-of-way for construction, operation, and maintenance of utility service, water, sewage, and drainage for such realty. [2009 c 21 § 1; 1989 c 19 § 12; 1977 c 75 § 32; 1957 c 250 § 3. Prior: 1943 c 130 § 16, part; 1917 c 107 § 11, part; 1913 c 66 § 4, part; 1909 c 134 § 27, part; 1901 c 78 § 4, part; 1895 c 108 § 38, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 8603-16, part.]

**RCW 38.12.030 Adjutant general and assistant adjutants general—  
How chosen—Annual salaries—Members of judiciary eligible to serve in guard.** Whenever a vacancy has occurred, or is about to occur in the office of the adjutant general, the governor shall order to active service for that position from the active list of the Washington army national guard or Washington air national guard an officer not below the rank of a field grade officer who has had at least ten years service as an officer on the active list of the Washington army national guard or the Washington air national guard during the fifteen years next prior to such detail. The officer so detailed shall during the continuance of his or her service as the adjutant general hold the rank of a general officer.

Whenever a vacancy has occurred, or is about to occur, in the offices of assistant adjutants general for the Washington army national guard or the Washington air national guard, the adjutant general with the concurrence of the governor may appoint an officer of the army national guard or the air national guard, who has had at least ten years service in the active list of his respective branch during the fifteen years next prior to such detail. The officer so detailed, may during the continuance of his service as assistant adjutant general hold the rank of a general officer.

If, by reason of the call or draft of officers of the Washington army national guard and/or air national guard into federal service, there is no officer of the Washington national guard available for detail as the adjutant general or as an assistant adjutant general who possesses the requisite qualifications, the governor may appoint any officer or former officer of the organized militia of Washington as acting adjutant general or as an acting assistant adjutant general. If the officers on detail as the adjutant general or as assistant adjutants general are appointed, called, or drafted into the military service of the United States by order or proclamation of the president, they shall be granted leaves of absence by the governor, and are entitled, upon release from federal service, to return to their former status as adjutant general or as assistant adjutants general of Washington, and during the period that they are in federal service, the duties of these offices shall be performed by an acting adjutant general and acting assistant adjutants general, appointed by the governor, as provided in this section, who shall receive the same pay provided for the adjutant general and/or assistant adjutants general respectively, during the period of such assignments.

The adjutant general shall receive an annual salary equal to the base pay of a major general in the United States army. The assistant adjutant general for the Washington army national guard and the assistant adjutant general for the Washington air national guard shall each receive an annual salary equal to the base pay of an officer of

equivalent grade in the United States army or United States air force but not to exceed that of a brigadier general. So long as a member of the judiciary of the state of Washington is available for judicial work at such times and under such conditions as may be set forth by local rules and custom, that member may serve as an active member of the national guard or air national guard. [1989 c 19 § 13; 1983 c 218 § 1; 1965 ex.s. c 100 § 1; 1961 c 210 § 3; 1943 c 130 § 21; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 8603-21. Prior: 1921 c 75 § 2; 1917 c 107 § 14; 1909 c 134 § 31, part; 1895 c 108 § 42, part.]

**RCW 38.12.060 Officers to be commissioned by the governor.** All commissioned and warrant officers of the organized militia of Washington shall be appointed and commissioned or warranted by the governor only as hereinafter provided. No person shall be so appointed and commissioned or warranted unless he or she shall be a citizen of the United States and of this state and more than eighteen years of age. Every commissioned and warranted officer shall hold office under his or her commission or warrant until he or she shall have been regularly appointed and commissioned or warranted to another rank or office, or until he or she shall have been regularly retired, discharged, dismissed or placed in the reserve. [1989 c 19 § 14; 1971 ex.s. c 292 § 41; 1943 c 130 § 19; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 8603-19. Prior: 1917 c 107 § 12, part; 1909 c 134 § 31, part; 1895 c 108 § 42, part.]

**Severability—1971 ex.s. c 292:** See note following RCW 26.28.010.

**RCW 38.12.070 Examining board.** No person shall be appointed and commissioned or warranted to any office in the organized militia of Washington unless he or she shall have been examined and adjudged qualified therefor by an examining board, appointed by the adjutant general, and whose report shall have been approved by the authority appointing the board. The composition, appointment and procedure of examining boards and the nature and scope of examinations shall be as prescribed by the laws or regulations of the United States or those of this state. Whenever a commissioned officer shall have been examined for promotion pursuant to this section and shall have been adjudged not qualified therefor, upon approval by the authority appointing the board of its report to that effect such officer may be honorably discharged, retired or placed in the reserve as the governor shall direct. [1989 c 19 § 15; 1943 c 130 § 20; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 8603-20. Prior: 1917 c 107 § 13; 1909 c 134 § 32; 1895 c 108 § 53.]

**RCW 38.12.095 Appointment or promotion of commissioned officers to be made by officer promotion board—Exceptions.** Whenever a commissioned officer is to be appointed or promoted either to fill a vacancy in the organized militia (Washington army national guard, Washington air national guard and the Washington state guard) or for any other reason, the officer to be appointed or promoted shall be selected by the officer promotion board. This selection in no way will change the powers of the governor under RCW 38.12.060. This section in no way applies to appointments or promotions to adjutant general or assistant adjutant general, to the appointment of officers to the rank of captain, lieutenant, or warrant officer, or to the promotion of

second lieutenants, first lieutenants, or warrant officers. [1989 c 19 § 16; 1974 ex.s. c 34 § 1.]

**RCW 38.12.105 Criteria and guidelines for promotion of commissioned officers.** All promotions of commissioned officers in the organized militia will be made on a best-qualified basis. The officer promotion board will select the best-qualified officer for each promotion from among those officers fully qualified for promotion. To be promoted, the selected officer must also meet the requirements of RCW 38.12.070. In no event will seniority be the sole guideline for selecting the officer to be promoted. The officer promotion board will, in determining the best qualified officer, consider the overall qualifications of an officer and not just the qualifications for one position. [1974 ex.s. c 34 § 2.]

**RCW 38.12.115 Officer promotion board—Meetings—Powers and duties.** The officer promotion board will meet from time to time as directed by the adjutant general. The board will select the best qualified officer for each promotion to be made in the organized militia, and will do any other act pertaining thereto directed by the adjutant general or allowed or directed by statute. [1989 c 19 § 17; 1974 ex.s. c 34 § 3.]

**RCW 38.12.125 Officer promotion board—Composition.** The officer promotion board shall be composed as follows:

(1) For promotions of army national guard officers, the adjutant general must appoint a board that includes at least five voting members who are officers in the army national guard senior in grade to those officers being considered by the board for promotion.

(a) Any officer appointed to the board who is not senior in grade to officers being considered for promotion must be recused from participating in the consideration for promotion of those officers to whom he or she is not senior.

(b) For consideration of an officer for promotion to the grade of O5 and above, the board must include at least one general officer appointed by the adjutant general as a voting member.

(2) For promotions of air national guard officers, the adjutant general must appoint a board that includes at least five voting members who are officers in the air national guard senior in grade to those officers being considered by the board for promotion.

(a) Any officer appointed to the board who is not senior in grade to officers being considered for promotion must be recused from participating in the consideration for promotion of those officers to whom he or she is not senior.

(b) For consideration of an officer for promotion to the grade of O5 and above, the board must include at least one general officer appointed by the adjutant general as a voting member.

(3) For promotions of state guard officers, the adjutant general must appoint a board that includes at least five voting members who are officers in the state guard senior in grade to those officers being considered by the board for promotion.

(a) Any officer appointed to the board who is not senior in grade to officers being considered for promotion must be recused from

participating in the consideration for promotion of those officers to whom he or she is not senior.

(b) For consideration of an officer for promotion to the grade of O5 and above, the board must include at least one general officer appointed by the adjutant general as a voting member. [2014 c 178 § 1; 1989 c 19 § 18; 1974 ex.s. c 34 § 4.]

**RCW 38.12.135 Officer promotion board—Official acts—Approval requirements—Rules.** To be an official act of the officer promotion board, an act of that board must be approved by not less than four of the members of the board: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That if the board consists of less than four officers, the approval of the board shall be unanimous.

An action of an officer promotion board may be an official act of the board without a meeting if all members of the board approve in writing the act in question.

The adjutant general will from time to time fix the rules under which the board will operate. [1974 ex.s. c 34 § 5.]

**RCW 38.12.150 Officer to take oath.** Every officer, duly commissioned or warranted shall within such time as may be provided by law or by regulations, take the oath of office prescribed by law, and give bond, if required. In case of neglect or refusal so to do, the officer shall be considered to have resigned such office and a new appointment may be made as provided by law. [1989 c 19 § 19; 1943 c 130 § 29; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 8603-29. Prior: 1917 c 107 § 26; 1909 c 134 § 36, part; 1895 c 108 § 51.]

**RCW 38.12.160 Oath, form of.** The oath of office for commissioned and warrant officers in the organized militia of Washington shall be substantially as follows: "I, . . . . ., do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the state of Washington, against all enemies, foreign or domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I will obey the orders of the president of the United States and of the governor of the state of Washington, that I make this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion, and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office of . . . . . in the organized militia of the state of Washington upon which I am about to enter, so help me God." [1943 c 130 § 30; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 8603-30. Prior: 1917 c 107 § 27; 1909 c 134 § 37.]

**RCW 38.12.170 Termination of officers' membership—Review of retention potential.** The governor may terminate the membership of any commissioned or warrant officer of the organized militia of Washington for any of the following reasons:

- (1) Conviction of an infamous crime;
- (2) Absence from his or her command for more than thirty days without proper leave;
- (3) Sentence of dismissal by court martial, duly approved;

(4) Upon muster out of the organization to which the officer is then assigned;

(5) Acceptance of the resignation of the officer, but no officer may be discharged or his or her resignation accepted while under arrest or against whom military charges have been preferred, or until he or she has turned over to his or her successor or satisfactorily accounted for all state and federal moneys and military property for which he or she is accountable or responsible;

(6) Removal of his or her actual residence to such distance from the station of his or her command as to render it impracticable for him or her to perform the duties of his or her office;

(7) Incompetence or unfitness for military service as determined by the duly approved findings of a board of officers appointed for that purpose by the adjutant general.

The adjutant general shall annually appoint and convene qualitative retention boards to review the military personnel records of officers who have completed three or more years service in the Washington state guard to determine their retention potential and acceptability for continuation in an active status. In the conduct of the reviews, the regulation issued by the adjutant general to implement this provision shall conform to the extent practicable to that governing the army national guard. [1989 c 19 § 20; 1984 c 198 § 1; 1943 c 130 § 31; 1925 ex.s. c 72 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 8603-31. Prior: 1917 c 107 § 28; 1909 c 134 § 39; 1895 c 108 § 63.]

**RCW 38.12.180 Retirement of officers.** Commissioned officers of the organized militia of Washington shall be retired by order of the commander-in-chief with the rank respectively held by them at the time of such retirement for the following reasons:

(1) Unfitness for military service by reason of permanent physical disability.

(2) Upon request after at least five years continuous service as an officer in the organized militia of Washington.

Except as provided otherwise in RCW 38.16.015(2), commissioned officers of the state guard shall upon reaching the age of sixty-four years be retired.

Retired officers shall draw no pay or allowance from the state unless recalled to service.

Retired officers are subject, with their consent, to temporary detail on active state service by the commander-in-chief, and while on such duty shall receive the same pay and allowances as officers of like rank on the active list. [2012 c 12 § 2; 1989 c 19 § 21; 1984 c 198 § 2; 1943 c 130 § 33; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 8603-33. Prior: 1909 c 134 § 40; 1895 c 108 § 66.]

**RCW 38.12.200 Uniform allowance to officers.** Every commissioned officer of the organized militia of Washington shall, within sixty days from the date of the order whereby he or she shall have been appointed, provide at the officer's own expense the uniform and equipment prescribed by the governor for his or her rank and assignment.

There shall be audited and may be paid, at the option of the adjutant general, to each properly uniformed and equipped officer of the active list of the organized militia of Washington, not in federal service an initial uniform allowance of one hundred dollars and

annually thereafter for each twelve months state service an additional uniform allowance of fifty dollars, subject to such regulations as the commander-in-chief may prescribe to be audited and paid upon presentation of proper voucher. [1991 c 43 § 2; 1989 c 19 § 22; 1982 c 93 § 1; 1943 c 130 § 37; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 8603-37. Prior: 1923 c 49 § 1; 1917 c 107 § 32; 1909 c 134 § 49; 1903 c 155 § 11; 1901 c 78 § 8; 1895 c 108 § 76.]

**Chapter 38.14 RCW  
WASHINGTON STATE GUARD**

**Sections**

- 38.14.006 Availability and composition of state guard.
- 38.14.012 Federal military service.
- 38.14.018 Pay of state guard members.
- 38.14.024 Equipment and supplies.
- 38.14.030 Training.
- 38.14.036 Qualifications for appointment of officers.



**Chapter 38.14 RCW  
WASHINGTON STATE GUARD**

**Sections**

- 38.14.006 Availability and composition of state guard.
- 38.14.012 Federal military service.
- 38.14.018 Pay of state guard members.
- 38.14.024 Equipment and supplies.
- 38.14.030 Training.
- 38.14.036 Qualifications for appointment of officers.

**RCW 38.14.006 Availability and composition of state guard.** The Washington state guard will be available to serve, at the call of the governor in the place of the national guard of the state of Washington under the provisions of this title when the national guard is in the service of the United States, or when otherwise ordered to active state service by the governor. The Washington state guard shall consist of commissioned and warrant officers and enlisted persons commissioned, warranted, or enlisted under the provisions of this title. Persons enlisted under RCW 38.16.015 shall be enrolled in accordance with regulations promulgated by the adjutant general. [1989 c 19 § 23.]

**RCW 38.14.012 Federal military service.** No member of the Washington state guard shall by reason of such membership be exempt from federal military service under the laws of the United States. [1989 c 19 § 24.]

**RCW 38.14.018 Pay of state guard members.** Members of the Washington state guard shall serve without pay except when on active state service with the state as defined in RCW 38.04.010, or when serving on inactive duty as defined in RCW 38.04.010 under orders of the governor specifically authorizing pay. When ordered to active state service or when serving on inactive duty in a pay status, members of the Washington state guard will be paid as prescribed for members of the national guard in RCW 38.24.050, except longevity adjustments for pay will be based solely on total service with the Washington state guard. [1989 c 19 § 25.]

**RCW 38.14.024 Equipment and supplies.** The governor may obtain from the federal government such arms and other equipment and supplies as may be available for issue, donation or loan for the use of the Washington state guard. When such property is provided by the federal government, it will be utilized, maintained, and disposed of in accordance with federal requirements and with property rules and regulations promulgated under the provisions of RCW 38.08.090. [1989 c 19 § 26.]

**RCW 38.14.030 Training.** Members of the Washington state guard may participate in such training opportunities as may be available from the federal government and as approved by the adjutant general.

Where required as a condition of such participation, the military department may reimburse the federal government for the costs of such training. [1989 c 19 § 27.]

**RCW 38.14.036 Qualifications for appointment of officers.** The adjutant general shall establish by regulation qualifications for appointment of commissioned and warrant officers in the Washington state guard. [1989 c 19 § 28.]

**Chapter 38.16 RCW**  
**ENLISTMENTS AND RESERVES**

**Sections**

- 38.16.010 Period of enlistment in national guard.
- 38.16.015 Period of enlistment in state guard.
- 38.16.020 Discharge of enlisted persons.
- 38.16.030 Inactive national guard.
- 38.16.040 State guard reserve.
- 38.16.050 Appointment of members of the committee for employer  
support of the guard and reserve to civil affairs unit.

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**RCW 38.16.010 Period of enlistment in national guard.** The period of enlistment in the Washington national guard shall conform to the laws and regulations of the United States department of defense governing such enlistments including the term of such enlistments and the maximum and minimum age of enlistment. [1989 c 19 § 29; 1943 c 130 § 35; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 8603-35. Prior: 1917 c 107 § 30; 1909 c 134 § 41; 1895 c 108 § 57.]

**RCW 38.16.015 Period of enlistment in state guard.** (1) The period of enlistment in the Washington state guard shall be set by regulation by the adjutant general or the adjutant general's designee.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section and RCW 38.12.180(2), the adjutant general, or the adjutant general's designee, may extend the service age upon request by an active member of the Washington state guard if the adjutant general, or the adjutant general's designee, determines the member's extension would be in the best interest of the Washington state guard. Extensions under this subsection have a two-year duration and may be renewed beyond the age of sixty-four, subject to the discretion of the adjutant general or the adjutant general's designee, if:

(a) The member is physically and mentally capable to complete all assigned mission tasks; and

(b) The Washington state guard officer review board recommends the extension. [2022 c 258 § 1; 2012 c 12 § 1; 1989 c 19 § 30.]

**RCW 38.16.020 Discharge of enlisted persons.** An enlisted person discharged from service in the organized militia of Washington shall receive a notice of discharge in writing in such form and classification as is or shall be prescribed by law or regulations, and in time of peace discharges may be given prior to the expiration of terms of enlistment under such regulations as may be prescribed by competent authority. [1989 c 19 § 31; 1943 c 130 § 36; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 8603-36. Prior: 1917 c 107 § 31; 1909 c 134 § 45, part; 1895 c 108 § 67, part.]

**RCW 38.16.030 Inactive national guard.** The inactive national guard of this state shall respectively be organized by the governor in regulations in conformance with the laws, rules and regulations of the United States. It shall consist of such organizations, officers and enlisted persons as the governor shall prescribe. No commissioned

officer shall be transferred or furloughed to the inactive national guard without the officer's written consent, except as otherwise expressly provided by law. Any officer of the inactive national guard may be restored to the active list by order of the governor, subject to the same examination as in the case of an original appointment to his or her rank, and in such event his or her service in the inactive national guard shall not be counted in computing total length of service for relative seniority. [2009 c 549 § 1012; 1991 c 43 § 3; 1989 c 19 § 32; 1943 c 130 § 34; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 8603-34. Prior: 1917 c 107 § 29.]

**RCW 38.16.040 State guard reserve.** In order to afford the utmost protection to the state of Washington and to the lives and property of citizens thereof, in times of emergency or anticipation thereof, the governor, through the state military department may provide for the organization and training of state guard reserve companies in communities not allocated a federally recognized or authorized state guard unit. [1943 c 130 § 86; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 8603-86.]

**RCW 38.16.050 Appointment of members of the committee for employer support of the guard and reserve to civil affairs unit.** To assist the state of Washington in the event of mobilization of state and federal military forces in the state, and notwithstanding other provisions of the state military law and other regulations governing appointment and promotion of officers and enlisted personnel of the Washington state guard, members of the Washington committee for employer support of the guard and reserve may be appointed to serve in a civil affairs unit of the Washington state guard. The rank shall be determined by the adjutant general. [1988 c 288 § 17.]

**Chapter 38.20 RCW**  
**ARMORIES AND RIFLE RANGES**

**Sections**

- 38.20.010 Regulations governing armories.
- 38.20.020 City may acquire armory site.
- 38.20.030 Counties may expend moneys for armory site.
- 38.20.040 Rental of property, armories, and small arms ranges.
- 38.20.050 Small arms ranges.

**ESTABLISHMENT OF ARMORIES:** *The following special or temporary acts relating to the establishment of armories are not codified herein:*

- (1) 1907 c 55, Armories at Seattle, Spokane and Tacoma;
- (2) 1909 c 68, Armory at Bellingham;
- (3) 1913 c 67, Armory at North Yakima;
- (4) 1917 c 108, 1919 c 19, Armory at Walla Walla;
- (5) 1917 c 109, 1919 c 20, Armory at Aberdeen;
- (6) 1917 c 166, 1919 c 21, Armory at Everett;
- (7) 1939 c 152, Armory at Olympia;
- (8) 1939 c 215, Naval and marine corps reserve armory at Seattle;
- (9) 1941 c 236, Naval and marine corps reserve armory at Tacoma;
- (10) 1953 c 277 §§ 1, 2 and 3, Armory at Spokane.

*Explosives, manufacture, sale or storage: Chapter 70.74 RCW.*

*Joint armory sites: RCW 36.64.050.*

*Militia—Public arms: State Constitution Article 10 § 4.*

*State, county and municipal indebtedness—Powers extended in certain cases: State Constitution Article 8 § 2.*

**Chapter 38.20 RCW**  
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- 38.20.020 City may acquire armory site.
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- (7) 1939 c 152, Armory at Olympia;
- (8) 1939 c 215, Naval and marine corps reserve armory at Seattle;
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*Explosives, manufacture, sale or storage: Chapter 70.74 RCW.*

*Joint armory sites: RCW 36.64.050.*

*Militia—Public arms: State Constitution Article 10 § 4.*

*State, county and municipal indebtedness—Powers extended in certain cases: State Constitution Article 8 § 2.*

**RCW 38.20.010 Regulations governing armories.** Except as provided in this section, state-owned armories shall be used strictly for military purposes.

(1) One room, together with the necessary furniture, heat, light, and janitor service, may be set aside for the exclusive use of bona fide veterans' organizations subject to the direction of the officer in charge. Members of these veterans' organizations and their auxiliaries shall have access to the room and its use at all times.

(2) A bona fide veterans' organization may use any state armory for athletic and social events without payment of rent whenever the armory is not being used by the organized militia. The adjutant general may require the veterans' organization to pay the cost of heating, lighting, or other miscellaneous expenses incidental to this use.

(3) The adjutant general may permit transient lodging of service personnel in armories.

(4) The adjutant general may, upon the recommendation of the executive head or governing body of a county, city or town, permit transient lodging of anyone in armories. The adjutant general may require the county, city or town to pay no more than the actual cost

of staffing, heating, lighting and other miscellaneous expenses incidental to this use.

(5) Civilian rifle clubs affiliated with the National Rifle Association of America are permitted to use small arms ranges in the armories at least one night each week under regulations prescribed by the adjutant general.

(6) State-owned armories shall be available, at the discretion of the adjutant general, for public and private use upon payment of rental charges and compliance with regulations of the state military department. Children attending primary and high schools have a preferential right to use these armories.

The adjutant general shall prepare a schedule of rental charges, including a cleaning deposit, and utility costs for each state-owned armory which may not be waived except for activities sponsored by the organized militia or activities provided for in subsection (4) of this section. The rental charges derived from armory rentals less the cleaning deposit shall be paid into the military department rental and lease account under RCW 38.40.210. [2015 c 36 § 1; 2009 c 34 § 1; 2005 c 252 § 3; 1989 c 19 § 33; 1985 c 295 § 1; 1983 c 268 § 1; 1975 1st ex.s. c 121 § 1; 1973 1st ex.s. c 154 § 56; 1963 c 149 § 1; 1949 c 125 § 1; 1947 c 204 § 1; 1943 c 130 § 93; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 8603-93. Prior: 1923 c 49 § 5; 1917 c 8 § 1; 1909 c 134 § 97; 1907 c 55 § 11; 1903 c 115 §§ 19, 20.]

**Effective date—1975 1st ex.s. c 121:** "The effective date of this act shall be July 1, 1977." [1975 1st ex.s. c 121 § 2.]

**Severability—1973 1st ex.s. c 154:** See note following RCW 2.12.030.

**SPECIAL ACTS RELATING TO ARMORIES:** *The following special or temporary acts relating to particular armories are not codified herein:*

- (1) 1959 c 181; 1961 c 135; 1963 c 146, Seattle
- (2) 1967 c 37, Prosser
- (3) 1967 c 43, Centralia
- (4) 1967 c 44, Chewelah
- (5) 1967 c 214, Stevens County
- (6) 1967 c 224, Tacoma and Pierce County
- (7) 1967 c 226, Yakima
- (8) 1969 ex.s. c 22, Kirkland.

**RCW 38.20.020 City may acquire armory site.** Any city in the state of Washington in which a unit of the national guard is stationed, or is to be stationed, is hereby authorized and empowered to acquire a site for an armory by gift or purchase, and to construct an armory thereon, and to issue and sell its general obligation bonds for said purposes, within the debt limits prescribed by the Constitution, with full power to sell or lease the same to the state of Washington or to the United States. [1933 ex.s. c 16 § 1; RRS § 8598-1.]

**RCW 38.20.030 Counties may expend moneys for armory site.** Any county of the state of Washington is hereby authorized and empowered to appropriate money for the purchase of an armory site whenever the



legislature of this state shall appropriate money for or authorize the construction of an armory therein. [1907 c 55 § 3 1/2; No RRS.]

**RCW 38.20.040 Rental of property, armories, and small arms ranges.** All armories and small arms ranges and all property, real or personal, used by the national guard and not owned by the state of Washington or the United States, shall be leased or rented to the state upon such terms and conditions as shall be approved by the commander-in-chief. [1989 c 19 § 34; 1909 c 134 § 98; RRS § 8599.]

**RCW 38.20.050 Small arms ranges.** Under the direction of the governor, the adjutant general shall, at the expense and in the name of the state, buy or lease, establish, equip, maintain and control such small arms ranges and issue such ammunition, transportation and supplies as may be necessary to provide each unit of the organized militia of Washington with adequate means and opportunity for thorough instruction in small arms practice. [1989 c 19 § 35; 1943 c 130 § 91; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 8603-91. Prior: 1917 c 107 § 120; 1909 c 134 § 92; 1895 c 108 § 168.]

**Chapter 38.24 RCW**  
**CLAIMS AND COMPENSATION**

**Sections**

- 38.24.010 Payment of military claims and expenses.
- 38.24.020 Audit and payment of awards.
- 38.24.050 Pay of officers and enlisted personnel—Wildland fire response pay.
- 38.24.060 Employment and reemployment rights upon return from militia duty.

**Chapter 38.24 RCW  
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**Sections**

- 38.24.010 Payment of military claims and expenses.
- 38.24.020 Audit and payment of awards.
- 38.24.050 Pay of officers and enlisted personnel—Wildland fire response pay.
- 38.24.060 Employment and reemployment rights upon return from militia duty.

**RCW 38.24.010 Payment of military claims and expenses.** All bills, claims and demands for military purposes shall be certified or verified and audited in the manner prescribed by regulations promulgated by the governor and shall be paid by the state treasurer from funds available for that purpose. In all cases where the organized militia, or any part of the organized militia, is called into active state service to perform duties under RCW 38.08.040, except for anticipated planning, training, exercises, and other administrative duties that are not of an emergent nature, warrants for allowed pay and expenses for such services or compensation for injuries or death shall be drawn upon the general fund of the state treasury and paid out of any moneys in said fund not otherwise appropriated. All such warrants shall be the obligation of the state and shall bear interest at the legal rate from the date of their presentation for payment. Claims and expenses for organized militia in active state service under RCW 38.08.040 that are not paid under this section may be paid under RCW 38.40.220. [2008 c 44 § 2; 2005 c 9 § 2; 1991 c 43 § 4; 1989 c 19 § 36; 1973 c 106 § 14; 1943 c 130 § 42; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 8603-42. Prior: 1917 c 107 § 36; 1909 c 134 § 56, part; 1895 c 108 § 91, part.]

**Effective date—2005 c 9:** See note following RCW 38.08.040.

**RCW 38.24.020 Audit and payment of awards.** All compensation shall be payable in monthly installments and shall be audited and paid as any other claim against the military department and shall be payable from the general fund out of any moneys not otherwise appropriated. [1943 c 130 § 41; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 8603-41. Prior: 1917 c 107 § 35; 1909 c 134 § 56, part; 1895 c 108 § 41, part.]

**RCW 38.24.050 Pay of officers and enlisted personnel—Wildland fire response pay.** (1) Commissioned officers, warrant officers, and enlisted personnel of the organized militia of Washington, while in active state service or inactive duty, are entitled to and shall receive the same amount of pay and allowances from the state of Washington as provided by federal laws and regulations for commissioned officers, warrant officers, and enlisted personnel of the armed forces of the United States only if federal pay and allowances are not authorized. For periods of such active state service, commissioned officers, warrant officers, and enlisted personnel of the organized militia of Washington shall receive either such pay and allowances, or for wildland fire response an amount equal to the rates

established by the national wildfire coordinating group administratively determined pay plans for emergency workers, or an amount equal to the state minimum wage, whichever is greater.

(2) Wildland fire response pay shall have an established minimum entry rate and additional scaled pay that recognizes the longevity and responsibility scope of more senior noncommissioned officers, warrant officers, and company grade commissioned officers. The pay plan is commensurate with the pay structure of other state agencies providing resources to wildland fire response. The director of the state military department shall establish the pay structure subject to approval of the office of financial management.

(3) The value of articles issued to any member and not returned in good order on demand, and legal fines or forfeitures, may be deducted from the member's pay.

(4) If federal pay and allowances are not authorized, all members detailed to serve on any board or commission ordered by the governor, or on any court-martial ordered by proper authority, may, at the discretion of the adjutant general, be paid a sum equal to one day's active state service for each day actually employed on the board or court or engaged in the business thereof, or in traveling to and from the same; and in addition thereto travel expenses in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060 as now existing or hereafter amended when such duty is at a place other than the city or town of his or her residence.

(5) Necessary transportation, quartermasters' stores, and subsistence for troops when ordered on active state service may be contracted for and paid for as are other military bills. [2019 c 66 § 1; 2011 c 336 § 767; 1989 c 19 § 37; 1984 c 198 § 3; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 34 § 81; 1974 ex.s. c 46 § 1; 1943 c 130 § 43; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 8603-43. Prior: 1925 c 28 § 2, part; 1919 c 137 § 1, part; 1917 c 107 § 37, part; 1915 c 47 § 1, part; 1913 c 66 § 10, part; 1909 c 134 § 157, part; 1907 c 122 § 5, part; 1903 c 155 § 13, part; 1901 c 78 § 11, part; 1895 c 108 § 89, part.]

**Effective date—Severability—1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 34:** See notes following RCW 2.08.115.

**RCW 38.24.060 Employment and reemployment rights upon return from militia duty.** All members of the organized militia of Washington who are called to active state service or inactive duty shall, upon return from such duty, have those rights accorded under RCW 73.16.031, 73.16.035, 73.16.041, 73.16.051, and 73.16.061. [1989 c 19 § 38; 1984 c 198 § 4; 1974 ex.s. c 46 § 2.]

**Chapter 38.32 RCW**  
**OFFENSES—PUNISHMENT**

**Sections**

- 38.32.010 Nonmilitary offenses by members on-duty status.
- 38.32.020 Military offenses.
- 38.32.030 Exemptions while on duty.
- 38.32.070 Member removed from state, request for discharge.
- 38.32.080 Penalty for failure to obey call.
- 38.32.090 Penalty for physician making false certificate.
- 38.32.100 Buying and receiving military property.
- 38.32.120 Authority of commanding officer.
- 38.32.140 Sentence to confinement.

*Militia—Organization—Discipline—Officers—Power to call out: State  
Constitution Art. 10 § 2.*

**Chapter 38.32 RCW**  
**OFFENSES—PUNISHMENT**

**Sections**

38.32.010 Nonmilitary offenses by members on-duty status.  
38.32.020 Military offenses.  
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38.32.100 Buying and receiving military property.  
38.32.120 Authority of commanding officer.  
38.32.140 Sentence to confinement.

*Militia—Organization—Discipline—Officers—Power to call out: State Constitution Art. 10 § 2.*

**RCW 38.32.010 Nonmilitary offenses by members on-duty status.**

Any member of the organized militia committing nonmilitary offenses under chapter 38.38 RCW while on-duty status or within state armories shall be promptly arrested by the military authorities and turned over to the civil authorities of the county or city in which the offense was committed. [2009 c 378 § 1; 1989 c 19 § 39; 1963 c 220 § 134; 1943 c 130 § 82; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 8603-82.]

**RCW 38.32.020 Military offenses.**

(1) Military offenses under chapter 38.38 RCW committed by members of the organized militia may be tried and punished as provided under chapter 38.38 RCW.

(2) Primary jurisdiction over military offenses enumerated in chapter 38.38 RCW is with military authorities. Primary jurisdiction over nonmilitary offenses is with civilian authorities. If an offense may be both military and nonmilitary, the military authorities may proceed only after the civilian authorities have declined to prosecute or dismissed the charge, provided jeopardy has not attached. Jurisdiction over attempted crimes, conspiracy crimes, solicitation, and accessory crimes must be determined by whether the underlying offense is a military or nonmilitary offense.

(3) Any member of the organized militia committing any offense under chapter 38.38 RCW may, if such offense is committed on a military reservation of the United States within this state, be turned over to the civil authorities for trial as provided by federal law. [2009 c 378 § 2; 1989 c 19 § 40; 1963 c 220 § 135; 1943 c 130 § 81; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 8603-81.]

**RCW 38.32.030 Exemptions while on duty.**

No person belonging to the military forces of this state shall be arrested on any warrant, except for treason or felony, while going to, remaining at, or returning from any place at which he or she may be required to attend military duty. Any members of the organized militia parading, or performing any duty according to the law shall have the right-of-way in any street or highway through which they may pass and while on field duty shall have the right to enter upon, cross, or occupy any uninclused [unenclosed] lands, or any inclosed [enclosed] lands where

no damage will be caused thereby: PROVIDED, That the carriage of the United States mail and legitimate functions of the police and fire departments shall not be interfered with thereby. [2011 c 336 § 768; 1943 c 130 § 45; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 8603-45. Prior: 1917 c 107 § 40; 1909 c 134 § 66; 1895 c 108 § 103.]

**RCW 38.32.070 Member removed from state, request for discharge.**

If any member is known to have removed from the state, and, through ignorance or neglect, has failed to apply for discharge, the discharge may be requested by his or her immediate commanding officer. [1989 c 19 § 41; 1963 c 220 § 136; 1943 c 130 § 84; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 8603-84. Cf. 1917 c 107 § 83.]

**RCW 38.32.080 Penalty for failure to obey call.**

Any member of the militia who shall have been ordered out for either state or federal service and who shall refuse or wilfully or negligently fail to report at the time and place and to the officer designated in the order or to the representative or successor of such officer, shall be deemed guilty of desertion, and shall suffer such penalty as a general court martial may direct, unless he or she shall produce a sworn certificate from a licensed physician of good standing that he or she was physically unable to appear at the time and place designated. Any person chargeable with desertion under this section may be taken by force and compelled to serve. [1989 c 19 § 42; 1943 c 130 § 10; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 8603-10. Prior: 1917 c 107 § 10; 1909 c 134 § 21; 1895 c 108 § 114.]

**RCW 38.32.090 Penalty for physician making false certificate.**

Any physician who shall knowingly make and deliver a false certificate of physical disability concerning any member of the militia who shall have been ordered out or summoned for active service is guilty of perjury under chapter 9A.72 RCW and, upon conviction, as an additional penalty, shall forfeit forever his or her license and right to practice in this state. [2003 c 53 § 209; 1989 c 19 § 43; 1943 c 130 § 11; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 8603-11. Prior: 1909 c 134 § 22.]

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

**RCW 38.32.100 Buying and receiving military property.**

Any person who shall purchase or receive in pawn or pledge any military property of the state or of the United States shall be guilty of a gross misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars or imprisoned for not more than six months or both such fine and imprisonment. [1943 c 130 § 87; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 8603-87. Cf. 1917 c 107 § 68.]

**RCW 38.32.120 Authority of commanding officer.**

(1) The commanding officer at any drill, parade, encampment or other duty may place in arrest for the time of such drill, parade, encampment or other duty any person or persons who shall trespass on the camp

grounds, parade grounds, rifle range or armory, or in any way or manner interrupt or molest the orderly discharge of duty of those on duty, or who shall disturb or prevent the passage of troops going to or returning from any regularly ordered tour of duty; and may prohibit and prevent the sale or use of all spirituous liquors, wines, ale or beer, or holding of huckster or auction sales, and all gambling therein, and remove disorderly persons beyond the limits of such parade or encampment, or within a distance of two miles therefrom, and the commanding officer shall have full authority to abate as common nuisances all disorderly places, and bar all unauthorized sales within such limits.

(2) Any person violating this section, or any order issued in pursuance thereof, is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be fined not more than one hundred dollars, or imprisoned not more than thirty days, or both such fine and imprisonment.

(3) No license or renewal thereof shall be issued or granted to any person, firm or corporation for the sale of intoxicating or spirituous liquors within a distance of three hundred feet from any armory used by the state of Washington for military purposes, without the approval of the adjutant general. [2003 c 53 § 210; 1989 c 19 § 44; 1963 c 220 § 137; 1943 c 130 § 52; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 8603-52. Prior: 1937 c 51 § 1; 1909 c 134 § 62; 1895 c 108 § 99.]

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

**RCW 38.32.140 Sentence to confinement.** All military courts of the organized militia of Washington shall have power to sentence to confinement in lieu of fines authorized to be imposed: PROVIDED, That such sentence of confinement shall not exceed one day for each dollar of fine authorized. [1943 c 130 § 61; 1917 c 107 § 53; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 8603-61.]



**Chapter 38.36 RCW  
TRIAL PROCEDURE**

**Sections**

38.36.120 Fees and mileage.

**Chapter 38.36 RCW**  
**TRIAL PROCEDURE**

**Sections**

38.36.120 Fees and mileage.

**RCW 38.36.120 Fees and mileage.** Fees and mileage allowed for the service of process and for civilian witnesses shall be the same as in civil actions. All expenditures necessary to carry the provisions of chapter 130, Laws of 1943, into effect are hereby authorized to be incurred, and paid out of the appropriations for the maintenance of the organized militia of Washington. [1943 c 130 § 78; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 8603-78. Prior: 1917 c 107 § 59; 1909 c 134 § 90.]

*Juror expense payments: RCW 2.36.150.*

*Travel expense in lieu of mileage in certain cases: RCW 2.40.030.*

*Witness fees and mileage: RCW 2.40.010.*

**Chapter 38.38 RCW**  
**WASHINGTON CODE OF MILITARY JUSTICE**

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**Reviser's note:** Article numbers in this chapter parallel equivalent sections in the federal Uniform Code of Military Justice and do not constitute part of the law.

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**WASHINGTON CODE OF MILITARY JUSTICE**

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**Reviser's note:** Article numbers in this chapter parallel equivalent sections in the federal Uniform Code of Military Justice and do not constitute part of the law.

## PART I—GENERAL PROVISIONS

**RCW 38.38.004 [Art. 1] Definitions—Construction.** In this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "A month's pay" or fraction thereof shall be calculated based upon a member's basic pay entitlement as if the member were serving for a thirty-day period.

(2) "Accuser" means a person who signs and swears to charges, any person who directs that charges nominally be signed and sworn to by another, and any person who has an interest other than an official interest in the prosecution of the accused.

(3) "Code" means this chapter.

(4) "Commanding officer" includes only commissioned officers in command of a unit.

(5) "Commissioned officer" includes a commissioned warrant officer.

(6) "Convening authority" includes, in addition to the person who convened the court, a commissioned officer commanding for the time being, or a successor in command.

(7) "Enlisted member" means a person in an enlisted grade.

(8) "Grade" means a step or degree, in a graduated scale of office or military rank, that is established and designated as a grade by law or regulation.

(9) "Judge advocate" means an officer of the army or air national guard designated as a judge advocate by the judge advocate general of the army or the judge advocate general of the air force.

(10) "May" is used in a permissive sense. The words "no person may. . ." mean that no person is required, authorized, or permitted to do the act prescribed.

(11) "Military" refers to any or all of the armed forces.

(12) "Military court" means a court-martial or a court of inquiry.

(13) "Military judge" means the presiding officer of a general or special court-martial detailed in accordance with RCW 38.38.256.

(14) "Military offense" means those offenses listed in RCW 38.38.644 through 38.38.800, 38.38.762, and 38.38.782.

(15) "Nonmilitary offense" means any offense other than those listed in Title 38 RCW.

(16) "Officer" means commissioned or warrant officer.

(17) "Organized militia" means the national guard of the state, as defined in section 101(3) of Title 32, United States Code, and any

other military force organized under the laws of the state of Washington.

(18) "Rank" means the order of precedence among members of the organized militia.

(19) "Shall" is used in an imperative sense.

(20) "State judge advocate" means the commissioned judge advocate officer responsible for supervising the administration of the military justice in the organized militia.

(21) "Superior commissioned officer" means a commissioned officer superior in rank or command. [2009 c 378 § 3; 1989 c 48 § 1; 1963 c 220 § 1.]

**Reviser's note:** The definitions in this section have been alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k).

**Effective date—1963 c 220:** "This act shall take effect on July 1, 1963." [1963 c 220 § 140.] For codification of 1963 c 220, see Codification Tables.

**RCW 38.38.008 [Art. 2] Persons subject to this code.** This code applies to all members of the organized militia who are not in federal service pursuant to Title 10 U.S.C. [2009 c 378 § 4; 1989 c 48 § 2; 1963 c 220 § 2.]

**RCW 38.38.012 [Art. 3] Jurisdiction to try certain personnel.** No person who has deserted from the organized militia may be relieved from amenability to the jurisdiction of this code by virtue of a separation from any later period of service. [1989 c 48 § 3; 1989 c 11 § 9; 1963 c 220 § 3.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 1989 c 11 § 9 and by 1989 c 48 § 3, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section pursuant to RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Severability—1989 c 11:** See note following RCW 9A.56.220.

**RCW 38.38.016 [Art. 4] Dismissal of commissioned officer.** (1) If any commissioned officer, dismissed by order of the governor, makes a written application for trial by court-martial, setting forth, under oath, that he or she has been wrongfully dismissed, the governor, as soon as practicable, shall convene a general court-martial to try that officer on the charges on which the officer was dismissed. A court-martial so convened has jurisdiction to try the dismissed officer on those charges, and the officer shall be considered to have waived the right to plead any statute of limitations applicable to any offense with which the officer is charged. The court-martial may, as part of its sentence, adjudge the affirmance of the dismissal, but if the court-martial acquits the accused or if the sentence adjudged, as finally approved or affirmed, does not include dismissal, the chief of staff to the governor or adjutant general shall substitute for the dismissal ordered by the governor a form of discharge authorized for administrative issue.

(2) If the governor fails to convene a general court-martial within six months from the presentation of an application for trial under this code, the chief of staff to the governor or adjutant general shall substitute for the dismissal ordered by the governor a form of discharge authorized for administrative issue.

(3) If a discharge is substituted for a dismissal under this code, the governor alone may reappoint the officer to such commissioned grade and with such rank as, in the opinion of the governor, that former officer would have attained had the officer not been dismissed. The reappointment of such a former officer may be made only if a vacancy is available under applicable tables of organization. All time between the dismissal and the reappointment shall be considered as actual service for all purposes.

(4) If an officer is discharged from the organized militia by administrative action or by board proceedings under law, or is dropped from the rolls by order of the governor, the officer has no right to trial under this section. [1989 c 48 § 4; 1963 c 220 § 4.]

**RCW 38.38.020 [Art. 5] Territorial applicability of the code.**

(1) This code applies throughout the state. It also applies to all persons otherwise subject to this code while they are serving outside the state, and while they are going to and returning from such service outside the state, in the same manner and to the same extent as if they were serving inside the state.

(2) Courts-martial and courts of inquiry may be convened and held in units of the organized militia while those units are serving outside the state with the same jurisdiction and powers as to persons subject to this code as if the proceedings were held inside the state, and offenses committed outside the state may be tried and punished either inside or outside the state. [1989 c 48 § 5; 1963 c 220 § 5.]

**RCW 38.38.024 [Art. 6] Judge advocates and legal officers. (1)**

The governor, on the recommendation of the adjutant general, shall appoint a judge advocate officer of the army or air national guard as state judge advocate. To be eligible for appointment, an officer must be a member of the bar of the highest court of the state and must have been a member of the bar of the state for at least five years.

(2) The adjutant general may appoint as many assistant state judge advocates as he or she considers necessary. To be eligible for appointment, assistant state judge advocates must be officers of the organized militia and members of the bar of the highest court of the state.

(3) The state judge advocate or assistants shall make frequent inspections in the field in supervision of the administration of military justice.

(4) Convening authorities shall at all times communicate directly with their staff judge advocates in matters relating to the administration of military justice; and the staff judge advocate of any command is entitled to communicate directly with the staff judge advocate of a superior or subordinate command, or with the state judge advocate.

(5) No person who has acted as member, law officer, trial counsel, assistant trial counsel, defense counsel, assistant defense counsel, or investigating officer, or who has been a witness for

either the prosecution or defense, in any case may later act as staff judge advocate to any reviewing authority upon the same case.

(6) No judge advocate may be assigned nonlegal duties unless authorized by the state judge advocate. [2009 c 378 § 5; 1989 c 48 § 6; 1963 c 220 § 6.]

## PART II—APPREHENSION AND RESTRAINT

**RCW 38.38.064 [Art. 7] Apprehension.** (1) Apprehension is the taking of a person into custody.

(2) Any person authorized by this code, or by regulations issued under it, to apprehend persons subject to this code, any marshal of a court-martial appointed pursuant to the provisions of this code, and any peace officer authorized to do so by law, may do so upon reasonable belief that an offense has been committed and that the person apprehended committed it.

(3) Commissioned officers, warrant officers, and noncommissioned officers have authority to quell quarrels, frays, and disorders among persons subject to this code and to apprehend persons subject to this code who take part therein. [1989 c 48 § 7; 1963 c 220 § 7.]

**RCW 38.38.068 [Art. 8] Apprehension of deserters.** Any civil officer having authority to apprehend offenders under the laws of the United States or of a state, territory, commonwealth, or possession, or the District of Columbia may summarily apprehend a deserter from the state of Washington organized militia and deliver the offender into the custody of the state of Washington organized militia. If an offender is apprehended outside of the state of Washington, the return to the area must be in accordance with normal extradition procedures or reciprocal agreement. [1989 c 48 § 8; 1963 c 220 § 8.]

**RCW 38.38.072 [Art. 9] Imposition of restraint.** (1) Arrest is the restraint of a person by an order, not imposed as a punishment for an offense, directing the person to remain within certain specified limits. Confinement is the physical restraint of a person.

(2) An enlisted member may be ordered into arrest or confinement by any commissioned officer by an order, oral or written, delivered in person or through other persons subject to this code or through any person authorized by this code to apprehend persons. A commanding officer may authorize warrant officers or noncommissioned officers to order enlisted members of the officer's command or subject to the officer's authority into arrest or confinement.

(3) A commissioned officer or a warrant officer may be ordered apprehended or into arrest or confinement only by a commanding officer to whose authority the officer is subject, by an order, oral or written, delivered in person or by another commissioned officer. The authority to order such persons apprehended or into arrest or confinement may not be delegated.

(4) No person may be ordered apprehended or into arrest or confinement except for probable cause.

(5) This section does not limit the authority of persons authorized to apprehend offenders to secure the custody of an alleged

offender until proper authority may be notified. [1989 c 48 § 9; 1963 c 220 § 9.]

**RCW 38.38.076 [Art. 10] Restraint of persons charged with offenses.** Any person subject to this code charged with an offense under this code shall be ordered into arrest or confinement, as circumstances may require; but when charged only with an offense normally tried by a summary court-martial, such person shall not ordinarily be placed in confinement. When any person subject to this code is placed in arrest or confinement prior to trial, immediate steps shall be taken to inform the person of the specific wrong of which he or she is accused and to try the person or to dismiss the charges and release the person. [1989 c 48 § 10; 1963 c 220 § 10.]

**RCW 38.38.080 [Art. 10a] Confinement in jails.** Persons confined other than in a guard house, whether before, during, or after trial by a military court, shall be confined in civil jails, penitentiaries, or prisons designated by the governor or the adjutant general. [2009 c 378 § 7; 1989 c 48 § 11; 1963 c 220 § 11.]

**RCW 38.38.084 [Art. 11] Reports and receiving of prisoners.** (1) No provost marshal, commander of a guard, master at arms, warden, keeper, or officer of a city or county jail or any other jail, penitentiary, or prison designated under RCW 38.38.080, may refuse to receive or keep any prisoner committed to his or her charge, when the committing person furnishes a statement, signed by the committing person, of the offense charged against the prisoner.

(2) Every commander of a guard, master at arms, warden, keeper, or officer of a city or county jail or of any other jail, penitentiary, or prison designated under RCW 38.38.080, to whose charge a prisoner is committed shall, within twenty-four hours after that commitment or as soon as he or she is relieved from guard, report to the commanding officer of the prisoner the name of the prisoner, the offense charged against the prisoner, and the name of the person who ordered or authorized the commitment. [1989 c 48 § 12; 1963 c 220 § 12.]

**RCW 38.38.088 [Art. 13] Punishment prohibited before trial.** Subject to RCW 38.38.488, no person, while being held for trial or the result of trial, may be subjected to punishment or penalty other than arrest or confinement upon the charges pending against the person, nor shall the arrest or confinement imposed upon the person be any more rigorous than the circumstances require to insure his or her presence, but the person may be subjected to minor punishment during that period for infractions of discipline. [1989 c 48 § 13; 1963 c 220 § 13.]

**RCW 38.38.092 [Art. 14] Delivery of offenders to civil authorities.** (1) Under such regulations as may be prescribed by the adjutant general, a person subject to this code who is accused of an offense against civil authority may be delivered, upon request, to the civil authority for trial.

(2) When delivery under this section is made to any civil authority of a person undergoing sentence of a court-martial, the delivery, if followed by conviction in a civil tribunal, interrupts the execution of the sentence of the court-martial, and the offender after having answered to the civil authorities for the offense shall, upon the request of competent military authority, be returned to military custody for the completion of the sentence. [2009 c 378 § 8; 1989 c 48 § 14; 1963 c 220 § 14.]

### PART III—NONJUDICIAL PUNISHMENT

**RCW 38.38.132 [Art. 15] Commanding officer's nonjudicial punishment—Suspension—Appeal.** (1) Under such regulations as the governor may prescribe, limitations may be placed on the powers granted by this section with respect to the kind and amount of punishment authorized, the categories of commanding officers and warrant officers exercising command authorized to exercise those powers, the applicability of this section to an accused who demands trial by court-martial, and the kinds of courts-martial to which the case may be referred upon such a demand. However, except in the case of a member attached to or embarked in a vessel, punishment may not be imposed upon any member of the organized militia under this section if the member has, before the imposition of such punishment, demanded trial by court-martial in lieu of such punishment. Under similar regulations, rules may be prescribed with respect to the suspension of punishments authorized hereunder. If authorized by regulations of the governor, a commanding officer exercising general court-martial jurisdiction or an officer of general rank in command may delegate powers under this section to a principal assistant.

(2) Subject to subsection (1) of this section, any commanding officer may, in addition to or in lieu of admonition or reprimand, impose one or more of the following disciplinary punishments for minor offenses without the intervention of a court-martial:

(a) Upon officers of his or her command:

(i) Restriction to certain specified limits, with or without suspension from duty, for not more than fourteen consecutive duty or drill days;

(ii) If imposed by an officer exercising general court-martial jurisdiction or an officer of general rank in command:

(A) Forfeiture of up to thirty days' pay, but not more than fifteen days' pay per month;

(B) Restriction to certain specified limits, with or without suspension from duty, for not more than fourteen consecutive drill or duty days;

(C) Detention of up to forty-five days' pay, but not more than fifteen days' pay per month;

(b) Upon other personnel of his or her command:

(i) If imposed upon a person attached to or embarked in a vessel, confinement for not more than three consecutive days;

(ii) Forfeiture of not more than seven days' pay;

(iii) Reduction to the next inferior pay grade, if the grade from which demoted is within the promotion authority of the officer imposing the reduction or any officer subordinate to the one who imposes the reduction;

(iv) Extra duties, including fatigue or other duties for not more than fourteen duty or drill days, which need not be consecutive, and for not more than two hours per day, holidays included;

(v) Restriction to certain specified limits, with or without suspension from duty, for not more than fourteen consecutive days;

(vi) Detention of not more than fourteen days' pay;

(vii) If imposed by a commanding officer of the grade of major or above:

(A) The punishment authorized in subsection (2) (b) (i) of this section;

(B) Forfeiture of up to thirty days' pay, but not more than fifteen days' pay per month;

(C) Reduction to the lowest or any intermediate pay grade, if the grade from which demoted is within the promotion authority of the officer imposing the reduction or any officer subordinate to the one who imposes the reduction, but an enlisted member in a pay grade above E-4 may not be reduced more than two pay grades;

(D) Extra duties, including fatigue or other duties, for not more than fourteen drill or duty days, which need not be consecutive, and for not more than two hours per day, holidays included;

(E) Restriction to certain specified limits, with or without suspension from duty, for not more than fourteen consecutive days;

(F) Detention of up to forty-five days' pay, but not more than fifteen days' pay per month.

Detention of pay shall be for a stated period of not more than one year but if the offender's term of service expires earlier, the detention shall terminate upon that expiration. Extra duties and restriction may not be combined to run consecutively in the maximum amount imposable for each. Whenever any such punishments are combined to run consecutively, there must be an apportionment. In addition, forfeiture of pay may not be combined with detention of pay without an apportionment.

(3) An officer in charge may impose upon enlisted members assigned to the unit of which the officer is in charge such of the punishment authorized under subsection (2) (b) of this section as the governor may specifically prescribe by regulation.

(4) The officer who imposes the punishment authorized in subsection (2) of this section, or a successor in command, may, at any time, suspend probationally any part or amount of the unexecuted punishment imposed and may suspend probationally a reduction in grade or a forfeiture imposed under subsection (2) of this section, whether or not executed. In addition, the officer may, at any time, remit or mitigate any part or amount of the unexecuted punishment imposed and may set aside in whole or in part the punishment, whether executed or unexecuted, and restore all rights, privileges, and property affected. The officer may also mitigate reduction in grade to forfeiture or detention of pay. When mitigating extra duties to restriction, the restriction shall not be longer than the number of hours of extra duty that may have been imposed. When mitigating reduction in grade to forfeiture or detention of pay, the amount of the forfeiture or detention shall not be greater than the amount that could have been imposed initially under this section by the officer who imposed the punishment mitigated.

(5) A person punished under this section who considers the punishment unjust or disproportionate to the offense may, through the proper channel, appeal to the next superior authority. The appeal shall be promptly forwarded and decided, but the person punished may



in the meantime be required to undergo the punishment adjudged. The superior authority may exercise the same powers with respect to the punishment imposed as may be exercised under subsection (4) of this section by the officer who imposed the punishment. Before acting on an appeal from a punishment of:

- (a) Forfeiture of more than seven days' pay;
- (b) Reduction of one or more pay grades from the fourth or a higher pay grade;
- (c) Extra duties for more than ten days;
- (d) Restriction for more than ten days; or
- (e) Detention of more than fourteen days' pay;

the authority who is to act on the appeal shall refer the case to a judge advocate for consideration and advice, and may so refer the case upon appeal from any punishment imposed under subsection (2) of this section.

(6) The imposition and enforcement of disciplinary punishment under this section for any act or omission is not a bar to trial by court-martial for a serious crime or offense growing out of the same act or omission, and not properly punishable under this section; but the fact that a disciplinary punishment has been enforced may be shown by the accused upon trial, and when so shown shall be considered in determining the measure of punishment to be adjudged in the event of a finding of guilty.

(7) The governor may by regulation prescribe the form of records to be kept of proceedings under this section and may also prescribe that certain categories of those proceedings shall be in writing. [2009 c 378 § 9; 1991 c 43 § 5; 1989 c 48 § 15; 1963 c 220 § 15.]

#### PART IV—COURTS-MARTIAL JURISDICTION

##### **RCW 38.38.172 [Art. 16] Courts-martial of organized militia not in federal service—Composition—Jurisdiction—Powers and proceedings.**

(1) In the organized militia not in federal service, there are general, special, and summary courts-martial constituted like similar courts of the armed forces of the United States. They have the jurisdiction and powers, except as to punishments, and shall follow the forms and procedures provided for those courts.

(2) The three kinds of courts-martial are:

(a) General courts-martial, consisting of a military judge and not less than five members, or only a military judge, if before the court is assembled the accused, knowing the identity of the military judge and after consultation with defense counsel, requests orally on the record or in writing a court composed only of a military judge and the military judge approves;

(b) Special courts-martial, consisting of not less than three members, or a military judge and not less than three members, or only a military judge, if one has been detailed to the court, and the accused under the same conditions as those prescribed in (a) of this subsection so requests; and

(c) Summary courts-martial, consisting of one commissioned officer. [1989 c 48 § 16; 1963 c 220 § 16.]

**RCW 38.38.176 [Art. 17] Jurisdiction of courts-martial in general.** Each force of the organized militia has court-martial jurisdiction over all persons subject to this code. The exercise of jurisdiction by one force over personnel of another force shall be in accordance with regulations prescribed by the governor. [1989 c 48 § 17; 1963 c 220 § 17.]

**RCW 38.38.180 [Art. 18] Jurisdiction of general courts-martial.** Subject to RCW 38.38.176, general courts-martial have jurisdiction to try persons subject to this code for any offense made punishable by this code and may, under such limitations as the governor may prescribe, adjudge any of the following punishments:

- (1) A fine of not more than three hundred dollars;
- (2) Forfeiture of pay and allowances;
- (3) A reprimand;
- (4) Dismissal or dishonorable discharge;
- (5) Reduction of a noncommissioned officer to the ranks; or
- (6) Any combination of these punishments. [2009 c 378 § 10; 1963 c 220 § 18.]

**RCW 38.38.184 [Art. 19] Jurisdiction of special courts-martial—Dishonorable discharge.** Subject to RCW 38.38.176, special courts-martial have jurisdiction to try persons subject to this code for any offense for which they may be punished under this code. A special court-martial has the same powers of punishment as a general court-martial, except that a fine imposed by a special court-martial may not be more than one hundred dollars for a single offense. A dishonorable discharge may not be adjudged unless a complete record of the proceedings and testimony has been made, counsel having the qualifications prescribed under RCW 38.38.260 was detailed to represent the accused, and a military judge was detailed to the trial, except in any case in which a military judge could not be detailed to the trial because of physical conditions or military exigencies. In any such case in which a military judge was not detailed to the trial, the convening authority shall make a detailed written statement, to be appended to the record, stating the reason or reasons a military judge could not be detailed. [1989 c 48 § 18; 1963 c 220 § 19.]

**RCW 38.38.188 [Art. 20] Jurisdiction of summary courts-martial.**

- (1) Subject to RCW 38.38.176, summary courts-martial have jurisdiction to try persons subject to this code, except officers for any offense made punishable by this code.
- (2) No person with respect to whom summary courts-martial have jurisdiction may be brought to trial before a summary court-martial if the person objects thereto, unless under RCW 38.38.132 the person has been permitted and has elected to refuse punishment under that section. If objection to trial by summary court-martial is made by an accused who has been permitted to refuse punishment under RCW 38.38.132, trial shall be ordered by special or general court-martial, as may be appropriate.
- (3) A summary court-martial may sentence to a fine of not more than twenty-five dollars for a single offense, to forfeiture of not more than one-half month's pay for two months, to reduction in rank of

enlisted soldiers, and to reduction of a noncommissioned officer to the ranks. [2009 c 378 § 11; 1989 c 48 § 19; 1963 c 220 § 20.]

**RCW 38.38.192 [Art. 21] Sentences of dismissal or dishonorable discharge to be approved by the governor.** In the organized militia not in federal service, no sentence of dismissal or dishonorable discharge may be executed until it is approved by the governor. [1963 c 220 § 21.]

**RCW 38.38.196 [Art. 21a] Complete record of proceedings and testimony if dishonorable discharge or dismissal adjudged.** A dishonorable discharge or dismissal may not be adjudged by any court-martial unless a complete record of the proceedings and testimony before the court has been made. [1989 c 48 § 20; 1963 c 220 § 22.]

**RCW 38.38.200 [Art. 21b] Confinement instead of fine.** In the organized militia not in federal service, a court-martial may, instead of imposing a fine, sentence to confinement for not more than one day for each dollar of the authorized fine. [1989 c 48 § 21; 1963 c 220 § 23.]

#### PART V—APPOINTMENT AND COMPOSITION OF COURTS-MARTIAL

**RCW 38.38.240 [Art. 22] Who may convene general courts-martial.** In the organized militia not in federal service pursuant to Title 10 U.S.C., general courts-martial may be convened by the president or by the governor, or by the adjutant general. [2009 c 378 § 12; 1989 c 48 § 22; 1963 c 220 § 24.]

**RCW 38.38.244 [Art. 23] Special courts-martial of organized militia not in federal service—Who may convene.** (1) In the organized militia not in federal service pursuant to Title 10 U.S.C., anyone authorized to convene a general court-martial, the commanding officer of a garrison, fort, post, camp, air base, auxiliary air base, or other place where troops are on duty, or of a brigade, regiment, wing, group, detached battalion, separate squadron, or other detached command may convene special courts-martial. Special courts-martial may also be convened by superior authority. When any such officer is an accuser, the court shall be convened by superior competent authority. (2) A special court-martial may not try a commissioned officer. [2009 c 378 § 13; 1989 c 48 § 23; 1963 c 220 § 25.]

**RCW 38.38.248 [Art. 24] Summary courts-martial of organized militia not in federal service—Who may convene.** (1) In the organized militia not in federal service pursuant to Title 10 U.S.C., anyone authorized to convene a special court-martial, the commanding officer of a garrison, fort, post, camp, air base, auxiliary air base, or other place where troops are on duty, or of a regiment, wing, group, detached battalion, detached squadron, detached company, or other

detachment may convene a summary court-martial consisting of one commissioned officer. The proceedings shall be informal.

(2) When only one commissioned officer is present with a command or detachment the commissioned officer shall be the summary court-martial of that command or detachment and shall hear and determine all summary court-martial cases brought before him or her. Summary courts-martial may, however, be convened in any case by superior competent authority when considered desirable. [2009 c 378 § 14; 1989 c 48 § 24; 1963 c 220 § 26.]

**RCW 38.38.252 [Art. 25] Who may serve on courts-martial. (1)**

Any commissioned officer of or on duty with the organized militia is eligible to serve on all courts-martial for the trial of any person who may lawfully be brought before such courts for trial.

(2) Any warrant officer of or on duty with the organized militia is eligible to serve on general and special courts-martial for the trial of any person, other than a commissioned officer, who may lawfully be brought before such courts for trial.

(3) (a) Any enlisted member of the organized militia who is not a member of the same unit as the accused is eligible to serve on general and special courts-martial for the trial of any enlisted member who may lawfully be brought before such courts for trial, but shall serve as a member of a court only if, before the conclusion of a session called by the military judge under RCW 38.38.380(1) prior to trial or, in the absence of such a session, before the court is assembled for the trial of the accused, the accused personally has requested in writing that enlisted members serve on it. After such a request, the accused may not be tried by a general or special court-martial the membership of which does not include enlisted members in a number comprising at least one-third of the total membership of the court, unless eligible members cannot be obtained on account of physical conditions or military exigencies. If such members cannot be obtained, the court may be convened and the trial held without them, but the convening authority shall make a detailed written statement, to be appended to the record, stating why they could not be obtained.

(b) In this section, the word "unit" means any regularly organized body of the organized militia not larger than a company, a squadron, or a body corresponding to one of them.

(4) (a) When it can be avoided, no person subject to this code may be tried by a court-martial any member of which is junior to the person in rank or grade.

(b) When convening a court-martial, the convening authority shall detail as members thereof such members as, in his or her opinion, are best qualified for the duty by reason of age, education, training, experience, length of service, and judicial temperament. No member is eligible to serve as a member of a general or special court-martial when the member is the accuser or a witness for the prosecution or has acted as investigating officer or as counsel in the same case.

(c) Before a court-martial is assembled for the trial of a case, the convening authority may excuse a member of the court from participating in the case. Under such regulations as the governor may prescribe, the convening authority may delegate his or her authority under this subsection to the staff judge advocate or to any other principal assistant. [1989 c 48 § 25; 1963 c 220 § 27.]

**RCW 38.38.256 [Art. 26] Military judge of a general or special court-martial.** (1) A military judge shall be detailed to each general court-martial. Subject to regulations of the governor, a military judge may be detailed to any special court-martial. The governor shall prescribe regulations providing for the manner in which military judges are detailed for such courts-martial and for the persons who are authorized to detail military judges for such courts-martial. The military judge shall preside over each open session of the court-martial to which he or she has been detailed.

(2) A military judge shall be a commissioned officer of the armed forces who is a member of the bar of a federal court or a member of the bar of the highest court of a state and who is certified to be qualified for duty as a military judge by the state judge advocate.

(3) The military judge of a general court-martial shall be designated by the state judge advocate or a designee for detail in accordance with regulations prescribed under subsection (1) of this section. Unless the court-martial was convened by the governor, neither the convening authority nor any member of the staff shall prepare or review any report concerning the effectiveness, fitness, or efficiency of the military judge so detailed, which relates to performance of duty as a military judge. A commissioned officer who is certified to be qualified for duty as a military judge of a general court-martial may perform such duties only when he or she is assigned and directly responsible to the state judge advocate or designee, and may perform duties of a judicial or nonjudicial nature other than those relating to the primary duty as a military judge of a general court-martial when such duties are assigned by or with the approval of the state judge advocate or designee.

(4) No person is eligible to act as military judge in a case if the person is the accuser or a witness for the prosecution or has acted as investigating officer or a counsel in the same case.

(5) The military judge of a court-martial may not consult with the members of the court except in the presence of the accused, trial counsel, and defense counsel, nor may the military judge vote with the members of the court. [1989 c 48 § 26; 1963 c 220 § 28.]

**RCW 38.38.258 [Art. 26a] Military judges—Qualifications.** A military judge must be a judge advocate. The adjutant general shall prescribe procedures for certifying, appointing, detailing, and removing military judges. [2009 c 378 § 6.]

**RCW 38.38.260 [Art. 27] Detail of trial counsel and defense counsel.** (1)(a) Trial counsel and defense counsel shall be detailed for each general and special court-martial. Assistant trial counsel and assistant and associate defense counsel may be detailed for each general and special court-martial. The governor shall prescribe regulations providing for the manner in which counsel are detailed for such courts-martial and for the persons who are authorized to detail counsel for such courts-martial.

(b) No person who has acted as investigating officer, military judge, or court member in any case may act later as trial counsel, assistant trial counsel, or, unless expressly requested by the accused, as defense counsel or assistant or associate defense counsel in the same case. No person who has acted for the prosecution may act

later in the same case for the defense, nor may any person who has acted for the defense act later in the same case for the prosecution.

(2) Trial counsel or defense counsel detailed for a general court-martial:

(a) Must be a judge advocate who is a graduate of an accredited law school or is a member of the bar of a federal court or of the highest court of a state, or must be a member of the bar of a federal court or of the highest court of a state; and

(b) Must be certified as competent to perform such duties by the state judge advocate.

(3) In the case of a special court-martial:

(a) The accused shall be afforded the opportunity to be represented at the trial by counsel having the qualifications prescribed under subsection (2) of this section unless counsel having such qualifications cannot be obtained on account of physical conditions or military exigencies. If counsel having such qualifications cannot be obtained, the court may be convened and the trial held but the convening authority shall make a detailed written statement, to be appended to the record, stating why counsel with such qualifications could not be obtained;

(b) If the trial counsel is qualified to act as counsel before a general court-martial, the defense counsel detailed by the convening authority must be a person similarly qualified; and

(c) If the trial counsel is a judge advocate or a member of the bar of a federal court or the highest court of a state, the defense counsel detailed by the convening authority must be one of the foregoing. [1991 c 43 § 6; 1989 c 48 § 27; 1963 c 220 § 29.]

**RCW 38.38.264 [Art. 28] Detail or employment of reporters and interpreters.** Under such regulations as the governor may prescribe, the convening authority of a general or special court martial or court of inquiry shall detail or employ qualified court reporters, who shall record the proceedings of and testimony taken before that court. Under like regulations the convening authority of a military court may detail or employ interpreters who shall interpret for the court. [1963 c 220 § 30.]

**RCW 38.38.268 [Art. 29] Absent and additional members.** (1) No member of a general or special court-martial may be absent or excused after the court has been assembled for the trial of the accused unless excused as a result of a challenge, excused by the military judge for physical disability or other good cause, or excused by order of the convening authority for good cause.

(2) Whenever a general court-martial, other than a general court-martial composed of a military judge only, is reduced below five members, the trial may not proceed unless the convening authority details new members sufficient in number to provide not less than five members. The trial may proceed with the new members present after the recorded evidence previously introduced before the members of the court has been read to the court in the presence of the military judge, the accused, and counsel for both sides.

(3) Whenever a special court-martial, other than a special court-martial composed of a military judge only, is reduced below three members, the trial may not proceed unless the convening authority details new members sufficient in number to provide not less than

three members. The trial shall proceed with the new members present as if no evidence had previously been introduced at the trial, unless a verbatim record of the evidence previously introduced before the members of the court or a stipulation thereof is read to the court in the presence of the military judge, if any, the accused, and counsel for both sides.

(4) If the military judge of a court-martial composed of a military judge only is unable to proceed with the trial because of physical disability, as a result of a challenge, or for other good cause, the trial shall proceed, subject to any applicable conditions of RCW 38.38.172(2) (a) or (b), after the detail of a new military judge as if no evidence had previously been introduced, unless a verbatim record of the evidence previously introduced or a stipulation thereof is read in court in the presence of the new military judge, the accused, and counsel for both sides. [1989 c 48 § 28; 1963 c 220 § 31.]

## PART VI—PRETRIAL PROCEDURE

**RCW 38.38.308 [Art. 30] Charges and specifications.** (1) Charges and specifications shall be signed by a person subject to this code under oath before a person authorized by this code to administer oaths and shall state:

(a) That the signer has personal knowledge of, or has investigated, the matters set forth therein; and

(b) That they are true in fact to the best of his or her knowledge and belief.

(2) Upon the preferring of charges, the proper authority shall take immediate steps to determine what disposition should be made thereof in the interest of justice and discipline, and the person accused shall be informed of the charges against him or her as soon as practicable. [1989 c 48 § 29; 1963 c 220 § 32.]

**RCW 38.38.312 [Art. 31] Compulsory self-incrimination prohibited.** (1) No person subject to this code may compel a person to incriminate himself or herself or to answer any question the answer to which may tend to incriminate himself or herself.

(2) No person subject to this code may interrogate, or request any statement from, an accused or a person suspected of an offense without first informing the person of the nature of the accusation and advising that the person does not have to make any statement regarding the offense of which he or she is accused or suspected and that any statement made by the person may be used as evidence against him or her in a trial by court-martial.

(3) No person subject to this code may compel any person to make a statement or produce evidence before any military tribunal if the statement or evidence is not material to the issue and may tend to degrade the person.

(4) No statement obtained from any person in violation of this section, or through the use of coercion, unlawful influence, or unlawful inducement may be received in evidence against the person in a trial by court-martial. [2009 c 378 § 15; 1989 c 48 § 30; 1963 c 220 § 33.]

**RCW 38.38.316 [Art. 32] Investigation.** (1) No charge or specification may be referred to a general court-martial for trial until a thorough and impartial investigation of all the matters set forth therein has been made. This investigation shall include inquiry as to the truth of the matter set forth in the charges, consideration of the form of charges, and a recommendation as to the disposition which should be made of the case in the interest of justice and discipline.

(2) The accused shall be advised of the charges against him or her and of the right to be represented at that investigation by counsel. The accused has a right to be represented at that investigation as provided in RCW 38.38.376 and in regulations prescribed under that section.

At that investigation full opportunity shall be given to the accused to cross-examine witnesses against him or her if they are available and to present anything the person may desire in his or her own behalf, either in defense or mitigation, and the investigating officer shall examine available witnesses requested by the accused. If the charges are forwarded after the investigation, they shall be accompanied by a statement of the substance of the testimony taken on both sides and a copy thereof shall be given to the accused.

(3) If an investigation of the subject matter of an offense has been conducted before the accused is charged with the offense, and if the accused was present at the investigation and afforded the opportunities for representation, cross-examination, and presentation prescribed in subsection (2) of this section, no further investigation of that charge is necessary under this section unless it is demanded by the accused after being informed of the charge. A demand for further investigation entitles the accused to recall witnesses for further cross-examination and to offer any new evidence in his or her own behalf.

(4) If evidence adduced in an investigation under this chapter indicates that the accused committed an uncharged offense, the investigating officer may investigate the subject matter of that offense without the accused having first been charged with the offense if the accused:

(a) Is present at the investigation;

(b) Is informed of the nature of each uncharged offense investigated; and

(c) Is afforded the opportunities for representation, cross-examination, and presentation prescribed in subsection (2) of this section.

(5) The requirements of this section are binding on all persons administering this code but failure to follow them does not divest a military court of jurisdiction. [2009 c 378 § 16; 1989 c 48 § 31; 1963 c 220 § 34.]

**RCW 38.38.320 [Art. 33] Forwarding of charges.** When a person is held for trial by general court-martial the commanding officer shall, within eight days after the accused is ordered into arrest or confinement, if practicable, forward the charges, together with the investigation and allied papers, to the governor. If that is not practicable, the officer shall report in writing to the governor the reasons for delay. [1989 c 48 § 32; 1963 c 220 § 35.]



**RCW 38.38.324 [Art. 34] Advice of state judge advocate and reference for trial.**

(1) Before directing the trial of any charge by general court-martial, the convening authority shall refer it to the state judge advocate for consideration and advice. The convening authority may not refer a charge to a general court-martial for trial unless he or she has found that the charge alleges an offense under this code, is warranted by evidence indicated in the report of the investigation under RCW 38.38.316, if there is such a report, and the court-martial would have jurisdiction over the accused and the offense.

(2) The advice of the staff judge advocate under subsection (1) of this section with respect to a specification under a charge shall include a written and signed statement by the staff judge advocate:

(a) Expressing conclusions with respect to each matter set forth in subsection (1) of this section; and

(b) Recommending action that the convening authority take regarding the specification.

If the specification is referred for trial, the recommendation of the state judge advocate shall accompany the specification.

(3) If the charges or specifications are not formally correct or do not conform to the substance of the evidence contained in the report of the investigating officer, formal corrections, and such changes in the charges and specifications as are needed to make them conform to the evidence may be made. [1989 c 48 § 33; 1963 c 220 § 36.]

**RCW 38.38.328 [Art. 35] Service of charges.** The trial counsel to whom court-martial charges are referred for trial shall cause to be served upon the accused a copy of the charges upon which trial is to be had. In time of peace no person may, against his or her objection, be brought to trial or be required to participate by himself or herself or counsel in a session called by a military judge under RCW 38.38.380(1), in a general court-martial within a period of five days after the service of the charges upon him or her, or before a special court-martial within a period of three days after the service of the charges upon him or her. [2011 c 336 § 769; 1989 c 48 § 34; 1963 c 220 § 37.]

PART VII—TRIAL PROCEDURE

**RCW 38.38.368 [Art. 36] Governor may prescribe rules.** The procedure, including modes of proof, in cases before military courts and other military tribunals may be prescribed by the governor by regulations, which shall, so far as the governor considers practicable, apply the principles of law and the rules of evidence generally recognized in the trial of criminal cases in the courts of the state, but which may not be contrary to or inconsistent with this code. [1989 c 48 § 35; 1963 c 220 § 38.]

**RCW 38.38.372 [Art. 37] Unlawfully influencing action of court.**  
(1) No authority convening a general, special, or summary court-martial nor any other commanding officer, or officer serving on the

staff thereof, may censure, reprimand, or admonish the court or any member, military judge, or counsel thereof, with respect to the findings or sentence adjudged by the court, or with respect to any other exercise of its or his or her functions in the conduct of the proceeding. No person subject to this code may attempt to coerce or, by any unauthorized means, influence the action of the court-martial or any other military tribunal or any member thereof, in reaching the findings or sentence in any case, or the action of any convening, approving, or reviewing authority with respect to judicial acts. The foregoing provisions of this section shall not apply with respect to (a) general instructional or informational courses in military justice if such courses are designed solely for the purpose of instructing members of a command in the substantive and procedural aspects of courts-martial, or (b) to statements and instructions given in open court by the military judge, president of a special court-martial, or counsel.

(2) In the preparation of an effectiveness, fitness, or efficiency report or any other report or document used in whole or in part for the purpose of determining whether a member of the organized militia is qualified to be advanced, in grade, or in determining the assignment or transfer of a member of the organized militia, or in determining whether a member of the organized militia should be retained on active duty, no person subject to this chapter may, in preparing any such report (a) consider or evaluate the performance of duty of any such member of a court-martial, or (b) give a less favorable rating or evaluation of any member of the organized militia because of the zeal with which such member, as counsel, represented any accused before a court-martial. [1989 c 48 § 36; 1963 c 220 § 39.]

**RCW 38.38.376 [Art. 38] Duties of trial counsel and defense counsel.** (1) The trial counsel of a general or special court-martial shall prosecute in the name of the state, and shall, under the direction of the court, prepare the record of the proceedings.

(2) The accused has the right to be represented in his or her defense before a general or special court-martial or at an investigation under RCW 38.38.316 as provided in this subsection.

(a) The accused may be represented by civilian counsel if provided at his or her own expense.

(b) The accused may be represented by:

(i) Military counsel detailed under RCW 38.38.260; or

(ii) Military counsel of his or her own selection if that counsel is reasonably available, as determined under regulations prescribed under subsection (3) of this section.

(c) If the accused is represented by civilian counsel, military counsel detailed or selected under (b) of this subsection shall act as associate counsel unless excused at the request of the accused.

(d) Except as provided under (e) of this subsection, if the accused is represented by military counsel of his or her own selection under (b)(ii) of this subsection, any military counsel detailed under (b)(i) of this subsection shall be excused.

(e) The accused is not entitled to be represented by more than one military counsel. However, the person authorized under regulations prescribed under RCW 38.38.260 to detail counsel in his or her sole discretion:

(i) May detail additional military counsel as assistant defense counsel; and

(ii) If the accused is represented by military counsel of his or her own selection under (b) (ii) of this subsection, may approve a request from the accused that military counsel detailed under (b) (i) of this subsection act as associate defense counsel.

(3) The state judge advocate shall, by regulation, define "reasonably available" for the purpose of subsection (2) of this section and establish procedures for determining whether the military counsel selected by an accused under subsection (2) of this section is reasonably available.

(4) In any court-martial proceeding resulting in a conviction, the defense counsel:

(a) May forward for attachment to the record of proceedings a brief of such matters as he or she determines should be considered in behalf of the accused on review, including any objection to the contents of the record which he or she considers appropriate;

(b) Shall assist the accused in the submission of any matter under RCW 38.38.536; and

(c) May take other action authorized by this chapter.

(5) An assistant trial counsel of a general court-martial may, under the direction of the trial counsel or when qualified to be a trial counsel as required by RCW 38.38.260, perform any duty imposed by law, regulation, or the custom of the service upon the trial counsel of the court. An assistant trial counsel of a special court-martial may perform any duty of the trial counsel.

(6) An assistant defense counsel of a general or special court-martial may, under the direction of the defense counsel or when qualified to be the defense counsel as required by RCW 38.38.260, perform any duty imposed by law, regulation, or the custom of the service upon counsel for the accused. [2009 c 378 § 17; 1989 c 48 § 37; 1963 c 220 § 40.]

**RCW 38.38.380 [Art. 39] Sessions.** (1) At any time after the service of charges which have been referred for trial to a court-martial composed of a military judge and members, the military judge may, subject to RCW 38.38.328, call the court into session without the presence of the members for the purpose of:

(a) Hearing and determining motions raising defenses or objections which are capable of determination without trial of the issues raised by a plea of not guilty;

(b) Hearing and ruling upon any matter which may be ruled upon by the military judge under this chapter, whether or not the matter is appropriate for later consideration or decision by the members of the court;

(c) Holding the arraignment and receiving the pleas of the accused; and

(d) Performing any other procedural function which may be performed by the military judge under this chapter or under rules prescribed pursuant to RCW 38.38.368 and which does not require the presence of the members of the court.

These proceedings shall be conducted in the presence of the accused, the defense counsel, and the trial counsel and shall be made a part of the record.

(2) When the members of a court-martial deliberate or vote, only the members may be present. All other proceedings, including any other

consultation of the members of the court with counsel or the military judge, shall be made a part of the record and shall be in the presence of the accused, the defense counsel, the trial counsel, and in cases in which a military judge has been detailed to the court, the military judge. [1989 c 48 § 38; 1963 c 220 § 41.]

**RCW 38.38.384 [Art. 40] Continuances.** The military judge or a court-martial without a military judge may, for reasonable cause, grant a continuance to any party for such time and as often as may appear to be just. [1989 c 48 § 39; 1963 c 220 § 42.]

**RCW 38.38.388 [Art. 41] Challenges.** (1) The military judge and members of a general or special court-martial may be challenged by the accused or the trial counsel for cause stated to the court. The military judge or, if none, the court shall determine the relevance and validity of challenges for cause and may not receive a challenge to more than one person at a time. Challenges by the trial counsel shall ordinarily be presented and decided before those by the accused are offered.

(2) If exercise of a challenge for cause reduces the court below the minimum number of members required by RCW 38.38.172, all parties shall, notwithstanding RCW 38.38.268, either exercise or waive any challenge for cause then apparent against the remaining members of the court before additional members are detailed to the court. However, peremptory challenges shall not be exercised at that time.

(3) Each accused and the trial counsel is entitled to one peremptory challenge, but the military judge may not be challenged except for cause.

(4) If exercise of a peremptory challenge reduces the court below the minimum number of members required by RCW 38.38.172, the parties shall, notwithstanding RCW 38.38.268, either exercise or waive any remaining peremptory challenge, that has not been previously waived, against the remaining members of the court before additional members are detailed to the court.

(5) Whenever additional members are detailed to the court, and after any challenges for cause against such additional members are presented and decided, each accused and the trial counsel are entitled to one peremptory challenge against members not previously subject to peremptory challenge. [2009 c 378 § 18; 1989 c 48 § 40; 1963 c 220 § 43.]

**RCW 38.38.392 [Art. 42] Oaths.** (1) Before performing their respective duties, military judges, members of general and special courts-martial, trial counsel, assistant trial counsel, defense counsel, assistant or associate defense counsel, reporters, and interpreters shall take an oath to perform their duties faithfully. The form of the oath, the time and place of the taking thereof, the manner of recording the same, and whether the oath shall be taken for all cases in which these duties are to be performed or for a particular case, shall be as prescribed in regulations of the governor. These regulations may provide that an oath to perform faithfully duties as a military judge, trial counsel, assistant trial counsel, defense counsel, or assistant or associate defense counsel may be taken at any time by a judge advocate or other person certified

to be qualified or competent for the duty, and if such an oath is taken it need not again be taken at the time the judge advocate, or other person, is detailed to that duty.

(2) Each witness before a court-martial shall be examined on oath. [1989 c 48 § 41; 1963 c 220 § 44.]

**RCW 38.38.396 [Art. 43] Statute of limitations.** (1) A person charged with desertion or absence without leave in time of war, or with aiding the enemy or with mutiny may be tried and punished at any time without limitation.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in this section, a person charged with desertion in time of peace or with the offense punishable under RCW 38.38.784 is not liable to be tried by court-martial if the offense was committed more than three years before the receipt of sworn charges and specifications by an officer exercising summary court-martial jurisdiction over the command.

(3) Except as otherwise provided in this section, a person charged with any offense is not liable to be tried by court-martial or punished under RCW 38.38.132 if the offense was committed more than two years before the receipt of sworn charges and specifications by an officer exercising summary court-martial jurisdiction over the command or before the imposition of punishment under RCW 38.38.132.

(4) Periods in which the accused was absent from territory in which the state has the authority to apprehend the accused, or in the custody of civil authorities, or in the hands of the enemy, shall be excluded in computing the period of limitation prescribed in this section.

(5) If charges or specifications are dismissed as defective or insufficient for any cause and the period prescribed by the applicable statute of limitations:

(a) Has expired; or

(b) Will expire within one hundred eighty days after the date of dismissal of the charges and specifications[,]  
[then] trial and punishment under new charges and specifications are not barred by the statute of limitations if the conditions specified in subsection (6) of this section are met.

(6) The conditions referred to in subsection (5) of this section are that the new charges and specifications must:

(a) Be received by an officer exercising summary court-martial jurisdiction over the command within one hundred eighty days after the dismissal of the charges or specifications; and

(b) Allege the same acts or omissions that were alleged in the dismissed charges or specifications or allege acts or omissions that were included in the dismissed charges or specifications. [2009 c 378 § 19; 1989 c 48 § 42; 1963 c 220 § 45.]

**RCW 38.38.400 [Art. 44] Former jeopardy.** (1) No person may, without the person's consent, be tried a second time in any military court of the state for the same offense.

(2) No proceeding in which an accused has been found guilty by a court-martial upon any charge or specification is a trial in the sense of this section until the finding of guilty has become final after review of the case has been fully completed.

(3) A proceeding which, after the introduction of evidence but before a finding, is dismissed or terminated by the convening

authority or on motion of the prosecution for failure of available evidence or witnesses without any fault of the accused is a trial in the sense of this section. [1989 c 48 § 43; 1963 c 220 § 46.]

**RCW 38.38.404 [Art. 45] Pleas of the accused.** (1) If an accused arraigned before a court-martial makes an irregular pleading, or after a plea of guilty sets up matter inconsistent with the plea, or if it appears that the accused has entered the plea of guilty improvidently or through lack of understanding of its meaning and effect, or if the accused fails or refuses to plead, a plea of not guilty shall be entered in the record, and the court shall proceed as though the accused had pleaded not guilty.

(2) With respect to any other charge or specification to which a plea of guilty has been made by the accused and accepted by the military judge or by a court-martial without a military judge, a finding of guilty of the charge or specification may be entered immediately without vote. This finding shall constitute the finding of the court unless the plea of guilty is withdrawn prior to announcement of the sentence, in which event the proceedings shall continue as though the accused had pleaded not guilty. [1991 c 43 § 7; 1989 c 48 § 44; 1963 c 220 § 47.]

**RCW 38.38.408 [Art. 46] Opportunity to obtain witnesses and other evidence.** (1) The trial counsel, the defense counsel, and the court-martial shall have equal opportunity to obtain witnesses and other evidence in accordance with such regulations as the governor may prescribe.

(2) The president of a special court-martial, military judge, military magistrate, or a summary court officer may:

(a) Issue a warrant for the arrest of any accused person who, having been served with a warrant and a copy of the charges, disobeys a written order by the convening authority to appear before the court;

(b) Issue subpoenas duces tecum and other subpoenas;

(c) Enforce by attachment the attendance of witnesses and the production of books and papers; and

(d) Sentence for refusal to be sworn or to answer, as provided in actions before civil courts of the state.

(3) Process issued in court-martial cases to compel witnesses to appear and testify and to compel the production of other evidence shall run to any part of the state and shall be executed by civil officers as prescribed by the laws of the state. [2009 c 378 § 20; 1989 c 48 § 45; 1963 c 220 § 48.]

**RCW 38.38.412 [Art. 47] Refusal to appear or testify—Penalty.**

(1) Any person not subject to this code who:

(a) Has been duly subpoenaed to appear as a witness or to produce books and records before a court-martial, military commission, court of inquiry, or any other military court or board, or before any military or civil officer designated to take a deposition to be read in evidence before such a court, commission, or board;

(b) Has been duly paid or tendered the fees and mileage of a witness at the rates allowed to witnesses attending the superior court of the state; and

(c) Willfully neglects or refuses to appear, or refuses to qualify as a witness or to testify or to produce any evidence which that person may have been legally subpoenaed to produce; is guilty of an offense against the state.

(2) Any person who commits an offense named in subsection (1) of this section shall be tried before the superior court of this state having jurisdiction and jurisdiction is conferred upon those courts for that purpose. Upon conviction, such a person shall be punished by a fine of not more than five hundred dollars, or imprisonment for not more than six months, or both.

(3) The prosecuting attorney in any such court, upon the certification of the facts by the military court, commission, court of inquiry, or board, shall prosecute any person violating this section. [2009 c 378 § 21; 1989 c 48 § 46; 1963 c 220 § 49.]

**RCW 38.38.416 [Art. 48] Contempts.** A military court may punish for contempt any person who uses any menacing word, sign, or gesture in its presence, or who disturbs its proceedings by any riot or disorder. The punishment may not exceed confinement for thirty days or a fine of one hundred dollars, or both. [1963 c 220 § 50.]

**RCW 38.38.420 [Art. 49] Depositions.** (1) At any time after charges have been signed, as provided in RCW 38.38.308, any party may take oral or written depositions unless a military judge or court-martial without a military judge hearing the case, or if the case is not being heard, an authority competent to convene a court-martial for the trial of those charges forbids it for good cause. If a deposition is to be taken before charges are referred for trial, such an authority may designate commissioned officers to represent the prosecution and the defense and may authorize those officers to take the deposition of any witness.

(2) The party at whose instance a deposition is to be taken shall give to every other party reasonable written notice of the time and place for taking the deposition.

(3) Depositions may be taken before and authenticated by any military or civil officer authorized by the laws of the state or by the laws of the place where the deposition is taken to administer oaths.

(4) A duly authenticated deposition taken upon reasonable notice to the other parties, so far as otherwise admissible under the rules of evidence, may be read in evidence or, in the case of audiotape, videotape, or similar material, may be played in evidence before any court-martial or in any proceeding before a court of inquiry, if it appears:

(a) That the witness resides or is beyond the state in which the court-martial or court of inquiry is ordered to sit, or beyond the distance of one hundred miles from the place of trial or hearing;

(b) That the witness by reason of death, age, sickness, bodily infirmity, imprisonment, military necessity, nonamenability to process, or other reasonable cause, is unable or refuses to appear and testify in person at the place of trial or hearing; or

(c) That the present whereabouts of the witness is unknown. [1989 c 48 § 47; 1963 c 220 § 51.]

**RCW 38.38.424 [Art. 50] Admissibility of records of courts of inquiry.** (1) In any case not extending to the dismissal of a commissioned officer, the sworn testimony, contained in the duly authenticated record of proceedings of a court of inquiry, of a person whose oral testimony cannot be obtained, may, if otherwise admissible under the rules of evidence, be read in evidence by any party before a court martial if the accused was a party before the court of inquiry and if the same issue was involved or if the accused consents to the introduction of such evidence.

(2) Such testimony may be read in evidence only by the defense in cases extending to the dismissal of a commissioned officer.

(3) Such testimony may also be read in evidence before a court of inquiry or a military board. [1963 c 220 § 52.]

**RCW 38.38.428 [Art. 51] Voting, rulings, instructions.** (1) Voting by members of a general or special court-martial on the findings and on the sentence, and by members of a court-martial without a military judge upon questions of challenge, shall be by secret written ballot. The junior member of the court shall count the votes. The count shall be checked by the president, who shall forthwith announce the result of the ballot to the members of the court.

(2) The military judge and, except for questions of challenge, the president of a court-martial without a military judge shall rule upon all questions of law and all interlocutory questions arising during the proceedings. Any such ruling made by the military judge upon any question of law or any interlocutory question other than the factual issue of mental responsibility of the accused, or by the president of a court-martial without a military judge upon any question of law other than a motion for a finding of not guilty, is final and constitutes the ruling of the court. However, the military judge or the president of a court-martial without a military judge may change a ruling at any time during the trial. Unless the ruling is final, if any member objects thereto, the court shall be cleared and closed and the question decided by a vote as provided in RCW 38.38.432, beginning with the junior in rank.

(3) Before a vote is taken on the findings, the military judge or the president of a court-martial without a military judge shall, in the presence of the accused and counsel, instruct the members of the court as to the elements of the offense and charge them:

(a) That the accused must be presumed to be innocent until guilt is established by legal and competent evidence beyond reasonable doubt;

(b) That in the case being considered, if there is reasonable doubt as to the guilt of the accused, the doubt must be resolved in favor of the accused and the accused must be acquitted;

(c) That, if there is a reasonable doubt as to the degree of guilt, the finding must be in a lower degree to which there is no reasonable doubt; and

(d) That the burden of proof to establish the guilt of the accused beyond reasonable doubt is upon the state.

(4) Subsections (1), (2), and (3) of this section do not apply to a court-martial composed of a military judge only. The military judge of such a court-martial shall determine all questions of law and fact arising during the proceedings and, if the accused is convicted, adjudge an appropriate sentence. The military judge of such a court-



martial shall make a general finding and shall in addition on request find the facts specially. If an opinion or memorandum of decision is filed, it will be sufficient if the findings of fact appear therein. [1989 c 48 § 48; 1963 c 220 § 53.]

**RCW 38.38.432 [Art. 52] Number of votes required.** (1) No person may be convicted of an offense, except as provided in RCW 38.38.404(2) or by the concurrence of two-thirds of the members present at the time the vote is taken.

(2) All sentences shall be determined by the concurrence of two-thirds of the members present at the time that the vote is taken.

(3) All other questions to be decided by the members of a general or special court-martial shall be determined by a majority vote, but a determination to reconsider a finding of guilty, or to reconsider a sentence with a view towards decreasing it, may be made by any lesser vote which indicates that the reconsideration is not opposed by the number of votes required for that finding or sentence. A tie vote on a challenge disqualifies the member challenged. A tie vote on a motion for a finding of not guilty or on a motion relating to the question of the accused's sanity is a determination against the accused. A tie vote on any other question is a determination in favor of the accused. [1989 c 48 § 49; 1963 c 220 § 54.]

**RCW 38.38.436 [Art. 53] Court to announce action.** A court martial shall announce its findings and sentence to the parties as soon as determined. [1963 c 220 § 55.]

**RCW 38.38.440 [Art. 54] Record of trial.** (1) Each general court-martial shall keep a separate record of the proceedings in each case brought before it, and the record shall be authenticated by the signature of the military judge. If the record cannot be authenticated by the military judge by reason of death, disability, or absence, it shall be authenticated by the signature of the trial counsel or by that of a member if the trial counsel is unable to authenticate it by reason of death, disability, or absence. In a court-martial consisting of only a military judge, the record shall be authenticated by the court reporter under the same conditions which would impose such a duty on a member under this subsection.

(2) Each special and summary court-martial shall keep a separate record of the proceedings in each case, and the record shall be authenticated in the manner required by such regulations as the governor may prescribe.

(3) (a) A complete record of the proceedings and testimony shall be prepared:

(i) In each general court-martial case in which the sentence adjudged includes a dismissal, a discharge, or, if the sentence adjudged does not include a discharge, any other punishment which exceeds that which may otherwise be adjudged by a special court-martial; and

(ii) In each special court-martial case in which the sentence adjudged includes a dishonorable discharge.

(b) In all other court-martial cases, the record shall contain such matters as may be prescribed by regulations of the governor.

(4) A copy of the record of the proceedings of each general and special court-martial shall be given to the accused as soon as it is authenticated. [1989 c 48 § 50; 1963 c 220 § 56.]

## PART VIII—SENTENCES

**RCW 38.38.480 [Art. 55] Cruel and unusual punishments prohibited.** Punishment by flogging, or by branding, marking or tattooing on the body, or any other cruel or unusual punishment, may not be adjudged by any court martial or inflicted upon any person subject to this code. The use of irons, single or double, except for the purpose of safe custody, is prohibited. [1963 c 220 § 57.]

**RCW 38.38.484 [Art. 56] Maximum limits—Reduction in pay grade.**

(1) The punishment which a court-martial may direct for an offense may not exceed limits prescribed by this code.

(2) Unless otherwise provided in regulations to be prescribed by the governor, a court-martial sentence of an enlisted member in a pay grade above E-1, as approved by the convening authority, that includes a dishonorable discharge reduces that member to pay grade E-1, effective on the date of that approval.

(3) If the sentence of a member who is reduced in pay grade under subsection (2) of this section is set aside or disapproved, or, as finally approved, does not include any punishment named in subsection (2) of this section, the rights and privileges of which the member was deprived because of that reduction shall be restored and the member is entitled to the pay and allowances to which the member would have been entitled for the period the reduction was in effect, had he or she not been so reduced. [1989 c 48 § 51; 1963 c 220 § 58.]

**RCW 38.38.488 [Art. 57] Effective date of sentences.** (1) No forfeiture may extend to any pay or allowances accrued before the date on which the sentence is approved by the person acting under RCW 38.38.536.

(2) Any period of confinement included in a sentence of a court-martial begins to run from the date the sentence is ordered to be executed by the convening authority, but periods during which the sentence to confinement is suspended or deferred shall be excluded in computing the service of the term of confinement. Regulations prescribed by the governor may provide that sentences of confinement may not be executed until approved by designated officers.

(3) All other sentences of courts-martial are effective on the date ordered executed.

(4) On application by an accused who is under sentence to confinement that has not been ordered executed, the convening authority or, if the accused is no longer under his or her jurisdiction, the officer exercising general court-martial jurisdiction over the command to which the accused is currently assigned, may, in his or her sole discretion, defer service of the sentence to confinement. The deferment shall terminate when the sentence is ordered executed. The deferment may be rescinded at any time by the officer who granted it or, if the accused is no longer

under his or her jurisdiction, by the officer exercising general court-martial jurisdiction over the command to which the accused is currently assigned. [1989 c 48 § 52; 1963 c 220 § 59.]

**RCW 38.38.492 [Art. 58] Execution of confinement.** (1) A sentence of confinement adjudged by a military court, whether or not the sentence includes discharge or dismissal, and whether or not the discharge or dismissal has been executed, may be carried into execution by confinement in any place of confinement under the control of any of the forces of the organized militia or in any jail, penitentiary, or prison designated for that purpose. Persons so confined in a jail, penitentiary, or prison are subject to the same discipline and treatment as persons confined or committed to the jail, penitentiary, or prison by the courts of the state or of any political subdivision thereof.

(2) The omission of the words "hard labor" from any sentence or punishment of a court-martial adjudging confinement does not deprive the authority executing that sentence or punishment of the power to require hard labor as a part of the punishment.

(3) The keepers, officers, and wardens of city or county jails and of other jails, penitentiaries, or prisons designated by the governor, or by such person as the governor may authorize to act under RCW 38.38.080, shall receive persons ordered into confinement before trial and persons committed to confinement by a military court and shall confine them according to law. No such keeper, officer, or warden may require payment of any fee or charge for so receiving or confining a person. [1989 c 48 § 53; 1963 c 220 § 60.]

#### PART IX—REVIEW OF COURTS-MARTIAL

**RCW 38.38.532 [Art. 59] Execution of sentence—Suspension of sentence.** Except as provided in RCW 38.38.196 and 38.38.556, a court-martial sentence, unless suspended, may be ordered executed by the convening authority when approved by him or her. The convening authority shall approve the sentence or such part, amount, or commuted form of the sentence as he or she sees fit, and may suspend the execution of the sentence as approved by him or her. [1989 c 48 § 54; 1963 c 220 § 61.]

**RCW 38.38.536 [Art. 60] Initial action on the record.** After a trial by court martial the record shall be forwarded to the convening authority, as reviewing authority, and action thereon may be taken by the person who convened the court, a commissioned officer commanding for the time being, a successor in command, or by the governor. [1963 c 220 § 62.]

**RCW 38.38.540 [Art. 61] Initial action on the record—General court-martial records.** The convening authority shall refer the record of each general court-martial to the staff judge advocate, who shall submit a written opinion thereon to the convening authority. If the final action of the court has resulted in an acquittal of all charges

and specifications, the opinion shall be limited to questions of jurisdiction. [1989 c 48 § 55; 1963 c 220 § 63.]

**RCW 38.38.544 [Art. 62] Reconsideration and revision.** (1) If a specification before a court martial has been dismissed on motion and the ruling does not amount to a finding of not guilty, the convening authority may return the record to the court for reconsideration of the ruling and any further appropriate action.

(2) Where there is an apparent error or omission in the record or where the record shows improper or inconsistent action by a court martial with respect to a finding or sentence which can be rectified without material prejudice to the substantial rights of the accused, the convening authority may return the record to the court for appropriate action. In no case, however, may the record be returned:

(a) For reconsideration of a finding of not guilty, or a ruling which amounts to a finding of not guilty;

(b) For reconsideration of a finding of not guilty of any charge, unless the record shows a finding of guilty under a specification laid under that charge, which sufficiently alleges a violation of some section of this code; or

(c) For increasing the severity of the sentence unless the sentence prescribed for the offense is mandatory. [1963 c 220 § 64.]

**RCW 38.38.548 [Art. 63] Rehearings.** (1) If the convening authority disapproves the findings and sentence of a court martial he or she may, except where there is lack of sufficient evidence in the record to support the findings, order a rehearing. In such a case he or she shall state the reasons for disapproval. If he or she disapproves the findings and sentence and does not order a rehearing, he or she shall dismiss the charges.

(2) Each rehearing shall take place before a court martial composed of members not members of the court martial which first heard the case. Upon a rehearing the accused may not be tried for any offense of which he or she was found not guilty by the first court martial, and no sentence in excess of or more severe than the original sentence may be imposed, unless the sentence is based upon a finding of guilty of an offense not considered upon the merits in the original proceedings, or unless the sentence prescribed for the offense is mandatory. [2011 c 336 § 770; 1963 c 220 § 65.]

**RCW 38.38.552 [Art. 64] Approval by the convening authority.** In acting on the findings and sentence of a court martial, the convening authority may approve only such findings of guilty, and the sentence or such part or amount of the sentence, as he or she finds correct in law and fact and as he or she in his or her discretion determines should be approved. Unless he or she indicates otherwise, approval of the sentence is approval of the findings and sentence. [2011 c 336 § 771; 1963 c 220 § 66.]

**RCW 38.38.556 [Art. 65] Review of records—Disposition.** (1) If the convening authority is the governor, the governor's action on the review of any record of trial is final.

(2) In all other cases not covered by subsection (1) of this section, if the sentence of a special court-martial as approved by the convening authority includes a dishonorable discharge, whether or not suspended, the entire record shall be sent to the appropriate staff judge advocate of the state force concerned to be reviewed in the same manner as a record of trial by general court-martial. The record and the opinion of the staff judge advocate shall then be sent to the state judge advocate for review.

(3) All other special and summary court-martial records shall be sent to the judge advocate of the appropriate force of the organized militia and shall be acted upon, transmitted, and disposed of as may be prescribed by regulations of the governor.

(4) The state judge advocate shall review the record of trial in each case sent for review as provided under subsection (2) of this section. If the final action of the court-martial has resulted in an acquittal of all charges and specifications, the opinion of the state judge advocate is limited to questions of jurisdiction.

(5) The state judge advocate shall take final action in any case reviewable by the state judge advocate.

(6) In a case reviewable by the state judge advocate under this section, the state judge advocate may act only with respect to the findings and sentence as approved by the convening authority. The state judge advocate may affirm only such findings of guilty, and the sentence or such part or amount of the sentence, as the state judge advocate finds correct in law and fact and determines, on the basis of the entire record, should be approved. In considering the record, the state judge advocate may weigh the evidence, judge the credibility of witnesses, and determine controverted questions of fact, recognizing that the trial court saw and heard the witnesses. If the state judge advocate sets aside the findings and sentence, the state judge advocate may, except where the setting aside is based on lack of sufficient evidence in the record to support the findings, order a rehearing. If the state judge advocate sets aside the findings and sentence and does not order a rehearing, he or she shall order that the charges be dismissed.

(7) In a case reviewable by the state judge advocate under this section, the state judge advocate shall instruct the convening authority to act in accordance with the state judge advocate's decision on the review. If the state judge advocate has ordered a rehearing but the convening authority finds a rehearing impracticable, the state judge advocate may dismiss the charges.

(8) The state judge advocate may order one or more boards of review each composed of not less than three commissioned officers of the organized militia, each of whom must be a member of the bar of the highest court of the state. Each board of review shall review the record of any trial by special court-martial, including a sentence to a dishonorable discharge, referred to it by the state judge advocate. Boards of review have the same authority on review as the state judge advocate has under this section. [2011 c 336 § 772; 1989 c 48 § 56; 1963 c 220 § 67.]

**RCW 38.38.560 [Art. 66] Error of law—Lesser included offense.**

(1) A finding or sentence of a court martial may not be held incorrect on the ground of an error of law unless the error materially prejudices the substantial rights of the accused.

(2) Any reviewing authority with the power to approve or affirm a finding of guilty may approve or affirm so much of the finding as includes a lesser included offense. [1963 c 220 § 68.]

**RCW 38.38.564 [Art. 67] Review counsel.** (1) Upon the final review of a sentence of a general court-martial, the accused has the right to be represented by counsel before the reviewing authority, before the staff judge advocate, and before the state judge advocate.

(2) Upon the request of an accused entitled to be so represented, the state judge advocate shall appoint a lawyer who is a member of the organized militia and who has the qualifications prescribed in RCW 38.38.260, if available, to represent the accused before the reviewing authority, before the staff judge advocate, and before the state judge advocate, in the review of cases specified in subsection (1) of this section.

(3) If provided by the accused, an accused entitled to be so represented may be represented by civilian counsel before the reviewing authority, before the staff judge advocate, and before the state judge advocate. [1991 c 43 § 8; 1989 c 48 § 57; 1963 c 220 § 69.]

**RCW 38.38.568 [Art. 68] Vacation of suspension.** (1) Before the vacation of the suspension of a special court-martial sentence, or of any general court-martial sentence, the officer having special court-martial jurisdiction over the probationer shall hold a hearing on the alleged violation of probation. The probationer shall be represented at the hearing by counsel if the probationer so desires.

(2) The record of the hearing and the recommendation of the officer having special court-martial jurisdiction shall be sent for action to the governor in cases involving a general court-martial sentence and to the commanding officer of the force of the organized militia of which the probationer is a member in all other cases covered by subsection (1) of this section. If the governor or commanding officer vacates the suspension, any unexecuted part of the sentence except a dismissal shall be executed.

(3) The suspension of any other sentence may be vacated by any authority competent to convene, for the command in which the accused is serving or assigned, a court of the kind that imposed the sentence. [1989 c 48 § 58; 1963 c 220 § 70.]

**RCW 38.38.572 [Art. 69] Petition for a new trial.** At any time within two years after approval by the convening authority of a court-martial sentence which extends to dismissal or dishonorable discharge, the accused may petition the governor for a new trial on ground of newly discovered evidence or fraud on the court-martial. [1989 c 48 § 59; 1963 c 220 § 71.]

**RCW 38.38.576 [Art. 70] Remission and suspension.** (1) A convening authority may remit or suspend any part or amount of the unexecuted part of any sentence, including all uncollected forfeitures.

(2) The governor may, for good cause, substitute an administrative form of discharge for a discharge or dismissal executed

in accordance with the sentence of a court martial. [1963 c 220 § 72.]

**RCW 38.38.580 [Art. 71] Restoration.** (1) Under such regulations as the governor may prescribe, all rights, privileges, and property affected by an executed part of a court-martial sentence which has been set aside or disapproved, except an executed dismissal or discharge, shall be restored unless a new trial or rehearing is ordered and such executed part is included in a sentence imposed upon a new trial or rehearing.

(2) If a previously executed sentence of dishonorable discharge is not imposed on a new trial, the governor shall substitute therefor a form of discharge authorized for administrative issuance unless the accused is to serve out the remainder of his or her enlistment.

(3) If a previously executed sentence of dismissal is not imposed on a new trial, the governor shall substitute therefor a form of discharge authorized for administrative issue, and the commissioned officer dismissed by that sentence may be reappointed by the governor alone to such commissioned grade and with such rank as in the opinion of the governor that former officer would have attained had he or she not been dismissed. The reappointment of such a former officer may be made if a position vacancy is available under applicable tables of organization. All time between the dismissal and reappointment shall be considered as service for all purposes. [2011 c 336 § 773; 1989 c 48 § 60; 1963 c 220 § 73.]

**RCW 38.38.584 [Art. 72] Finality of proceedings, findings and sentences.** The proceedings, findings and sentences of courts martial as reviewed and approved, as required by this code, and all dismissals and discharges carried into execution under sentences by courts martial following review and approval, as required by this code, are final and conclusive. Orders publishing the proceedings of courts martial and all action taken pursuant to those proceedings are binding upon all departments, courts, agencies, and officers of the state, subject only to action upon a petition for a new trial as provided in RCW 38.38.572. [1963 c 220 § 74.]

#### PART X—PUNITIVE ARTICLES

**RCW 38.38.624 [Art. 76] Persons to be tried or punished.** No person may be tried or punished for any offense provided for in RCW 38.38.628 through 38.38.800, unless he or she was a member of the organized militia at the time of the offense. [2009 c 378 § 22; 1963 c 220 § 75.]

**RCW 38.38.628 [Art. 77] Principals.** Any person subject to this code who:

(1) Commits an offense punishable by this code, or aids, abets, counsels, commands, or procures its commission; or

(2) Causes an act to be done which if directly performed by him or her would be punishable by this code;

is a principal. [2011 c 336 § 774; 1963 c 220 § 76.]

**RCW 38.38.632 [Art. 78] Accessory after the fact.** Any person subject to this code who, knowing that an offense punishable by this code has been committed, receives, comforts, or assists the offender in order to hinder or prevent his or her apprehension, trial, or punishment shall be punished as a court martial may direct. [2011 c 336 § 775; 1963 c 220 § 77.]

**RCW 38.38.636 [Art. 79] Conviction of lesser included offense.** An accused may be found guilty of an offense necessarily included in the offense charged or of an attempt to commit either the offense charged or an offense necessarily included therein. [1963 c 220 § 78.]

**RCW 38.38.640 [Art. 80] Attempts.** (1) An act, done with specific intent to commit an offense under this code, amounting to more than mere preparation and tending, even though failing to effect its commission, is an attempt to commit that offense.

(2) Any person subject to this code who attempts to commit any offense punishable by this code shall be punished as a court martial may direct, unless otherwise specifically prescribed.

(3) Any person subject to this code may be convicted of an attempt to commit an offense although it appears on the trial that the offense was consummated. [1963 c 220 § 79.]

**RCW 38.38.644 [Art. 81] Conspiracy.** Any person subject to this code who conspires with any other person to commit an offense under this code shall, if one or more of the conspirators does an act to effect the object of the conspiracy, be punished as a court martial may direct. [1963 c 220 § 80.]

**RCW 38.38.648 [Art. 82] Solicitation.** (1) Any person subject to this code who solicits or advises another or others to desert in violation of RCW 38.38.660 or mutiny in violation of RCW 38.38.696 shall, if the offense solicited or advised is attempted or committed, be punished with the punishment provided for the commission of the offense, but, if the offense solicited or advised is not committed or attempted, he or she shall be punished as a court martial may direct.

(2) Any person subject to this code who solicits or advises another or others to commit an act of misbehavior before the enemy in violation of RCW 38.38.716 or sedition in violation of RCW 38.38.696 shall, if the offense solicited or advised is committed, be punished with the punishment provided for the commission of the offense, but, if the offense solicited or advised is not committed, he or she shall be punished as a court martial may direct. [2011 c 336 § 776; 1963 c 220 § 81.]

**RCW 38.38.652 [Art. 83] Fraudulent enlistment, appointment, or separation.** Any person who:



(1) Procures his or her own enlistment or appointment in the organized militia by knowingly false representation or deliberate concealment as to qualifications for that enlistment or appointment and receives pay or allowances thereunder; or

(2) Procures his or her own separation from the organized militia by knowingly false representation or deliberate concealment as to eligibility for that separation;

shall be punished as a court-martial may direct. [1989 c 48 § 61; 1963 c 220 § 82.]

**RCW 38.38.656 [Art. 84] Unlawful enlistment, appointment, or separation.** Any person subject to this code who effects an enlistment or appointment in or a separation from the organized militia of any person who is known to the person to be ineligible for that enlistment, appointment, or separation because it is prohibited by law, regulation, or order shall be punished as a court-martial may direct. [1989 c 48 § 62; 1963 c 220 § 83.]

**RCW 38.38.660 [Art. 85] Desertion.** (1) Any member of the organized militia who:

(a) Without authority goes or remains absent from the member's unit, organization, or place of duty with intent to remain away therefrom permanently;

(b) Quits the member's unit, organization or place of duty with intent to avoid hazardous duty or to shirk important service; or

(c) Without being regularly separated from one of the organized militia enlists or accepts an appointment in the same or another one of the organized militia, or in one of the armed forces of the United States, without fully disclosing the fact that he or she has not been regularly separated;  
is guilty of desertion.

(2) Any commissioned officer of the organized militia who, after tender of a resignation and before notice of its acceptance, quits his or her post or proper duties without leave and with intent to remain away therefrom permanently is guilty of desertion.

(3) Any person found guilty of desertion or attempt to desert shall be punished as a court-martial may direct. [1989 c 48 § 63; 1963 c 220 § 84.]

**RCW 38.38.664 [Art. 86] Absence without leave.** Any person subject to this code who, without authority:

(1) Fails to go to his or her appointed place of duty at the time prescribed;

(2) Goes from that place; or

(3) Absents himself or herself or remains absent from his or her unit, organization, or place of duty at which he or she is required to be at the time prescribed;

shall be punished as a court martial may direct. [2011 c 336 § 777; 1963 c 220 § 85.]

**RCW 38.38.668 [Art. 87] Missing movement.** Any person subject to this code who through neglect or design misses the movement of a ship, aircraft, or unit with which he or she is required in the course of

duty to move shall be punished as a court martial may direct. [2011 c 336 § 778; 1963 c 220 § 86.]

**RCW 38.38.672 [Art. 88] Contempt towards officials.** Any person subject to this code who uses contemptuous words against the president, the governor, or the governor of any other state, territory, commonwealth, or possession in which that person may be serving, shall be punished as a court martial may direct. [1963 c 220 § 87.]

**RCW 38.38.676 [Art. 89] Disrespect towards superior commissioned officer.** Any person subject to this code who behaves with disrespect towards his or her superior commissioned officer shall be punished as a court martial may direct. [2011 c 336 § 779; 1963 c 220 § 88.]

**RCW 38.38.680 [Art. 90] Assaulting or willfully disobeying superior commissioned officer.** Any person subject to this code who:

- (1) Strikes his or her superior commissioned officer or draws or lifts up any weapon or offers any violence against him or her while he or she is in the execution of his or her office; or
- (2) Willfully disobeys a lawful command of his or her superior commissioned officer;

shall be punished as a court martial may direct. [2011 c 336 § 780; 1963 c 220 § 89.]

**RCW 38.38.684 [Art. 91] Insubordinate conduct toward warrant officer or noncommissioned officer.** Any warrant officer or enlisted member who:

- (1) Strikes or assaults a warrant officer or noncommissioned officer while that officer is in the execution of the officer's office;
- (2) Wilfully disobeys the lawful order of a warrant officer or noncommissioned officer; or
- (3) Treats with contempt or is disrespectful in language or deportment toward a warrant officer or noncommissioned officer while that officer is in the execution of the officer's office;

shall be punished as a court-martial may direct. [1989 c 48 § 64; 1963 c 220 § 90.]

**RCW 38.38.688 [Art. 92] Failure to obey order or regulation.** Any person subject to this code who:

- (1) Violates or fails to obey any lawful general order or regulation;
- (2) Having knowledge of any other lawful order issued by a member of the organized militia which it is the person's duty to obey, fails to obey the order; or
- (3) Is derelict in the performance of the person's duties;

shall be punished as a court-martial may direct. [1989 c 48 § 65; 1963 c 220 § 91.]

**RCW 38.38.692 [Art. 93] Cruelty and maltreatment.** Any person subject to this code who is guilty of cruelty toward, or oppression or maltreatment of, any person subject to his or her orders shall be punished as a court martial may direct. [2011 c 336 § 781; 1963 c 220 § 92.]

**RCW 38.38.696 [Art. 94] Mutiny or sedition.** (1) Any person subject to this code who:

(a) With intent to usurp or override lawful military authority refuses, in concert with any other person, to obey orders or otherwise do his or her duty or creates any violence or disturbance is guilty of mutiny;

(b) With intent to cause the overthrow or destruction of lawful civil authority, creates, in concert with any other person, revolt, violence, or other disturbance against that authority is guilty of sedition;

(c) Fails to do his or her utmost to prevent and suppress a mutiny or sedition being committed in his or her presence, or fails to take all reasonable means to inform his or her superior commissioned officer or commanding officer of a mutiny or sedition which he or she knows or has reason to believe is taking place, is guilty of a failure to suppress or report a mutiny or sedition.

(2) A person who is found guilty of attempted mutiny, mutiny, sedition, or failure to suppress or report a mutiny or sedition shall be punished as a court martial may direct. [2011 c 336 § 782; 1963 c 220 § 93.]

**RCW 38.38.700 [Art. 95] Resistance, breach of arrest, and escape.** Any person subject to this code who resists apprehension or breaks arrest or who escapes from physical restraint lawfully imposed shall be punished as a court martial may direct. [1963 c 220 § 94.]

**RCW 38.38.704 [Art. 96] Releasing prisoner without proper authority.** Any person subject to this code who, without proper authority, releases any prisoner committed to his or her charge, or who through neglect or design suffers any such prisoner to escape, shall be punished as a court martial may direct, whether or not the prisoner was committed in strict compliance with law. [2011 c 336 § 783; 1963 c 220 § 95.]

**RCW 38.38.708 [Art. 97] Unlawful detention of another.** Any person subject to this code who, except as provided by law or regulation, apprehends, arrests, or confines any person shall be punished as a court martial may direct. [1963 c 220 § 96.]

**RCW 38.38.712 [Art. 98] Noncompliance with procedural rules.** Any person subject to this code who:

(1) Is responsible for unnecessary delay in the disposition of any case of a person accused of an offense under this code; or

(2) Knowingly and intentionally fails to enforce or comply with any provision of this code regulating the proceedings before, during, or after trial of an accused;

shall be punished as a court martial may direct. [1963 c 220 § 97.]

**RCW 38.38.716 [Art. 99] Misbehavior before the enemy.** Any person subject to this code who before or in the presence of the enemy:

- (1) Runs away;
  - (2) Shamefully abandons, surrenders, or delivers up any command, unit, place, or military property which it is the person's duty to defend;
  - (3) Through disobedience, neglect, or intentional misconduct endangers the safety of any such command, unit, place, or military property;
  - (4) Casts away arms or ammunition;
  - (5) Is guilty of cowardly conduct;
  - (6) Quits a place of duty to plunder or pillage;
  - (7) Causes false alarms in any command, unit, or place under control of the armed forces of the United States or the organized militia;
  - (8) Wilfully fails to do his or her utmost to encounter, engage, capture, or destroy any enemy troops, combatants, vessels, aircraft, or any other thing, which it is the person's duty so to encounter, engage, capture, or destroy; or
  - (9) Does not afford all practicable relief and assistance to any troops, combatants, vessels, or aircraft of the armed forces belonging to the United States or their allies, to the state, or to any other state, when engaged in battle;
- shall be punished as a court-martial may direct. [1989 c 48 § 66; 1963 c 220 § 98.]

**RCW 38.38.720 [Art. 100] Subordinate compelling surrender.** Any person subject to this code who compels or attempts to compel the commander of any of the organized militia of the state, or of any other state, to give it up to an enemy or to abandon it, or who strikes the colors or flag to an enemy without proper authority, shall be punished as a court-martial may direct. [1989 c 48 § 67; 1963 c 220 § 99.]

**RCW 38.38.724 [Art. 101] Improper use of countersign.** Any person subject to this code who in time of war discloses the parole or countersign to any person not entitled to receive it, or who gives to another who is entitled to receive and use the parole or countersign a different parole or countersign from that which, to his or her knowledge, he or she was authorized and required to give, shall be punished as a court martial may direct. [2011 c 336 § 784; 1963 c 220 § 100.]

**RCW 38.38.728 [Art. 102] Forcing a safeguard.** Any person subject to this code who forces a safeguard shall be punished as a court martial may direct. [1963 c 220 § 101.]

**RCW 38.38.732 [Art. 103] Captured or abandoned property.** (1) All persons subject to this code shall secure all public property

taken from the enemy for the service of the United States, and shall give notice and turn over to the proper authority without delay all captured or abandoned property in their possession, custody, or control.

(2) Any person subject to this code who:

(a) Fails to carry out the duties prescribed in subsection (1) of this section;

(b) Buys, sells, trades, or in any way deals in or disposes of captured or abandoned property, whereby he or she receives or expects any profit, benefit, or advantage to himself or herself or another directly or indirectly connected with himself or herself; or

(c) Engages in looting or pillaging;

shall be punished as a court martial may direct. [2011 c 336 § 785; 1963 c 220 § 102.]

**RCW 38.38.736 [Art. 104] Aiding the enemy.** Any person subject to this code who:

(1) Aids, or attempts to aid, the enemy with arms, ammunition, supplies, money, or other things; or

(2) Without proper authority, knowingly harbors or protects or gives intelligence to, or communicates or corresponds with or holds any intercourse with the enemy, either directly or indirectly; shall be punished as a court martial may direct. [1963 c 220 § 103.]

**RCW 38.38.740 [Art. 105] Misconduct of a prisoner.** Any person subject to this code who, while in the hands of the enemy in time of war:

(1) For the purpose of securing favorable treatment by his or her captors acts without proper authority in a manner contrary to law, custom, or regulation, to the detriment of others of whatever nationality held by the enemy as civilian or military prisoners; or

(2) While in a position of authority over such persons maltreats them without justifiable cause; shall be punished as a court martial may direct. [2011 c 336 § 786; 1963 c 220 § 104.]

**RCW 38.38.744 [Art. 107] False official statements.** Any person subject to this code who, with intent to deceive, signs any false record, return, regulation, order, or other official document, knowing it to be false, or makes any other false official statement knowing it to be false, shall be punished as a court martial may direct. [1963 c 220 § 105.]

**RCW 38.38.748 [Art. 108] Military property—Loss, damage, destruction, or wrongful disposition.** Any person subject to this code who, without proper authority:

(1) Sells or otherwise disposes of;

(2) Wilfully or through neglect damages, destroys, or loses; or

(3) Wilfully or through neglect suffers to be damaged, destroyed, sold or wrongfully disposed of; any military property of the United States or of the state shall be punished as a court martial may direct. [1963 c 220 § 106.]

**RCW 38.38.752 [Art. 109] Property other than military property—Waste, spoilage, or destruction.** Any person subject to this code who willfully or recklessly wastes, spoils, or otherwise willfully and wrongfully destroys or damages any property other than military property of the United States or of the state shall be punished as a court-martial may direct. [2009 c 378 § 23; 1963 c 220 § 107.]

**RCW 38.38.756 [Art. 110] Improper hazarding of vessel.** (1) Any person subject to this code who wilfully and wrongfully hazards or suffers to be hazarded any vessel of the armed forces of the United States or of the organized militia shall be punished as a court-martial may direct.

(2) Any person subject to this code who negligently hazards or suffers to be hazarded any vessel of the armed forces of the United States or of the organized militia shall be punished as a court-martial may direct. [1989 c 48 § 68; 1963 c 220 § 108.]

**RCW 38.38.760 [Art. 111] Reckless or impaired operation of a vehicle, aircraft, or vessel.** (1) Any person subject to this code who:

(a) Operates or physically controls any vehicle, aircraft, or vessel in a reckless or wanton manner or while impaired by a substance described in RCW 38.38.762; or

(b) Operates or is in actual physical control of any vehicle, aircraft, or vessel while drunk or when the alcohol concentration in the person's blood or breath is equal to or exceeds the applicable limit under subsection (2) of this section; or

(c) Operates or is in actual physical control of any vehicle, aircraft, or vessel in a reckless or wanton manner shall be punished as a court-martial may direct.

(2) For purposes of subsection (1) of this section, the blood alcohol content limit with respect to alcohol concentration in a person's blood is 0.08 grams of alcohol per one hundred milliliters of blood and with respect to alcohol concentration in a person's breath is 0.08 grams of alcohol per two hundred ten liters of breath, as shown by chemical analysis.

(3) For purposes of this section, "blood alcohol content limit" means the amount of alcohol concentration in a person's blood or breath at which operation or control of a vehicle, aircraft, or vessel is prohibited. [2009 c 378 § 24; 1963 c 220 § 109.]

**RCW 38.38.762 [Art. 112a] Use, possession, or distribution of controlled substances.** (1) Any person subject to this code who wrongfully uses, possesses, distributes, or introduces into an installation, vessel, vehicle, or aircraft used by or under the control of the armed forces or organized militia a substance described in subsection (2) of this section shall be punished as a court-martial may direct.

(2) The substances referred to in subsection (1) of this section are the following:

(a) Opium, heroin, cocaine, amphetamine, lysergic acid diethylamide, methamphetamine, phencyclidine, barbituric acid, and cannabis and any compound or derivative of any such substance;

(b) Any substance not specified in (a) of this subsection that is listed on a schedule of controlled substances prohibited by the United States army; or

(c) Any other substance not specified in this subsection that is listed in Schedules I through V of section 202 of the federal controlled substances act, 21 U.S.C. Sec. 812, as amended.

(3) For the purposes of this section, "cannabis" has the meaning provided in RCW 69.50.101. [2022 c 16 § 27; 2009 c 378 § 25.]

**Intent—Finding—2022 c 16:** See note following RCW 69.50.101.

**RCW 38.38.764 [Art. 112] Drunk on duty—Sleeping on post—Leaving post before relief.** Any person subject to this code who is found drunk on duty or sleeping upon his or her post, or who leaves his or her post before he or she is regularly relieved, shall be punished as a court martial may direct. [2011 c 336 § 787; 1963 c 220 § 110.]

**RCW 38.38.768 [Art. 114] Dueling.** Any person subject to this code who fights or promotes, or is concerned in or connives at fighting a duel, or who, having knowledge of a challenge sent or about to be sent, fails to report the fact promptly to the proper authority, shall be punished as a court martial may direct. [1963 c 220 § 111.]

**RCW 38.38.772 [Art. 115] Malingering.** Any person subject to this code who for the purpose of avoiding work, duty or service in the organized militia:

(1) Feigns illness, physical disablement, mental lapse or derangement; or

(2) Intentionally inflicts self-injury;  
shall be punished as a court-martial may direct. [1989 c 48 § 69; 1963 c 220 § 112.]

**RCW 38.38.776 [Art. 116] Riot or breach of peace.** Any person subject to this code who causes or participates in any riot or breach of the peace shall be punished as a court martial may direct. [1963 c 220 § 113.]

**RCW 38.38.780 [Art. 117] Provoking speeches or gestures.** Any person subject to this code who uses provoking or reproachful words or gestures toward any other person subject to this code shall be punished as a court martial may direct. [1963 c 220 § 114.]

**RCW 38.38.782 [Art. 128] Assault upon another member of the organized militia.** Any person subject to this code who attempts or offers with unlawful force or violence to do bodily harm to another member of the organized militia, whether or not the attempt or offer is consummated, is guilty of assault and shall be punished as a court-martial may direct. [2009 c 378 § 26.]

**RCW 38.38.783 [Art. 121] Larceny and wrongful appropriation.**

(1) Any person subject to this code who wrongfully takes, obtains, or withholds, by any means, from the possession of the owner or of any other person any money, personal property, or article of value of any kind:

(a) With intent permanently to deprive or defraud another person of the use and benefit of property or to appropriate it to his [or her] own use or the use of any person other than the owner, steals that property and is guilty of larceny; or

(b) With intent temporarily to deprive or defraud another person of the use and benefit of property or to appropriate it to his [or her] own use or the use of any person other than the owner, is guilty of wrongful appropriation.

(2) Any person found guilty of larceny or wrongful appropriation shall be punished as a court martial may direct. [1963 c 220 § 117. Formerly RCW 38.38.792.]

**RCW 38.38.784 [Art. 131] Perjury.** Any person subject to this code who in a judicial proceeding or in a course of justice conducted under this code wilfully and corruptly gives, upon a lawful oath or in any form allowed by law to be substituted for an oath, any false testimony material to the issue or matter of inquiry is guilty of perjury and shall be punished as a court martial may direct. [1963 c 220 § 115.]

**RCW 38.38.788 [Art. 132] Frauds against the government.** Any person subject to this code:

(1) Who, knowing it to be false or fraudulent:

(a) Makes any claim against the United States, the state, or any officer thereof; or

(b) Presents to any person in the civil or military service thereof, for approval or payment any claim against the United States, the state, or any officer thereof;

(2) Who, for the purpose of obtaining the approval, allowance, or payment of any claim against the United States, the state, or any officer thereof:

(a) Makes or uses any writing or other paper knowing it to contain any false or fraudulent statements;

(b) Makes any oath to any fact or to any writing or other paper knowing the oath to be false; or

(c) Forges or counterfeits any signature upon any writing or other paper, or uses any such signature knowing it to be forged or counterfeited;

(3) Who, having charge, possession, custody, or control of any money, or other property of the United States or the state, furnished or intended for the armed forces of the United States or the organized militia, knowingly delivers to any person having authority to receive it, any amount thereof less than that for which the person receives a certificate or receipt; or

(4) Who, being authorized to make or deliver any paper certifying the receipt of any property of the United States or the state, furnished or intended for the armed forces of the United States or the organized militia, makes or delivers to any person such writing without having full knowledge of the truth of the statements therein contained and with intent to defraud the United States or the state;



shall, upon conviction, be punished as a court-martial may direct. [1989 c 48 § 70; 1963 c 220 § 116.]

**RCW 38.38.796 [Art. 133] Conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman.** Any commissioned officer who is convicted of conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman shall be punished as a court martial may direct. [1963 c 220 § 118.]

**RCW 38.38.800 [Art. 134] General article.** Though not specifically mentioned in this code, all disorders and neglects to the prejudice of good order and discipline in the organized militia, of which persons subject to this code may be guilty, shall be taken cognizance of by a general, special or summary court-martial, according to the nature and degree of the offense, and shall be punished at the discretion of that court. However, cognizance may not be taken of, and jurisdiction may not be extended to, the crimes of murder, manslaughter, rape, robbery, maiming, sodomy, arson, extortion, assault in the first degree, burglary, or housebreaking, jurisdiction of which is reserved to civil courts. [2009 c 378 § 27; 1989 c 48 § 71; 1963 c 220 § 119.]

#### PART XI—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

**RCW 38.38.840 [Art. 135] Courts of inquiry.** (1) Courts of inquiry to investigate any matter may be convened by the governor, the adjutant general, or by any other person designated by the governor for that purpose, whether or not the persons involved have requested such an inquiry: PROVIDED, That upon the request of the officer involved such an inquiry shall be instituted as hereinabove set forth.

(2) A court of inquiry consists of three or more commissioned officers. For each court of inquiry the convening authority shall also appoint counsel for the court.

(3) Any person subject to this code whose conduct is subject to inquiry shall be designated as a party. Any person subject to this code or employed in the state military department, who has a direct interest in the subject of inquiry has the right to be designated as a party upon request to the court. Any person designated as a party shall be given due notice and has the right to be present, to be represented by counsel, to cross-examine witnesses, and to introduce evidence.

(4) Members of a court of inquiry may be challenged by a party, but only for cause stated to the court.

(5) The members, counsel, the reporter, and interpreters of courts of inquiry shall take an oath or affirmation to faithfully perform their duties.

(6) Witnesses may be summoned to appear and testify and be examined before courts of inquiry, as provided for courts-martial.

(7) Courts of inquiry shall make findings of fact but may not express opinions or make recommendations unless required to do so by the convening authority.

(8) Each court of inquiry shall keep a record of its proceedings, which shall be authenticated by the signatures of the president and

counsel for the court and forwarded to the convening authority. If the record cannot be authenticated by the president, it shall be signed by a member in lieu of the president. If the record cannot be authenticated by the counsel for the court, it shall be signed by a member in lieu of the counsel. [2009 c 378 § 28; 1989 c 48 § 72; 1963 c 220 § 120.]

**RCW 38.38.844 [Art. 136] Authority to administer oaths.** (1) The following members of the organized militia may administer oaths for the purposes of military administration, including military justice, and affidavits may be taken for those purposes before persons having the general powers of a notary public:

(a) The state judge advocate and all assistant state judge advocates;

(b) All law specialists or paralegals;

(c) All summary courts-martial;

(d) All adjutants, assistant adjutants, acting adjutants, and personnel adjutants;

(e) The military judge, president, trial counsel, and assistant trial counsel for all general and special courts-martial;

(f) The president and the counsel for the court of any court of inquiry;

(g) All officers designated to take a deposition;

(h) All commanding officers of units of the organized militia;

(i) All officers of the organized militia designated as recruiting officers;

(j) All persons detailed to conduct an investigation; and

(k) All other persons designated by regulations of the adjutant general.

(2) The signature without seal of any such person, together with the title of the person's office, is prima facie evidence of the person's authority. [2009 c 378 § 29; 1989 c 48 § 73; 1963 c 220 § 121.]

**RCW 38.38.848 [Art. 137] Sections to be explained.** (1) RCW 38.38.008, 38.38.012, 38.38.064 through 38.38.132, 38.38.252, 38.38.260, 38.38.372, 38.38.480, 38.38.624 through \*38.38.792, and 38.38.848 through 38.38.860 shall be carefully explained to every enlisted member:

(a) At the time of the member's enlistment or transfer or induction;

(b) At the time of the member's order to duty in or with any of the organized militia; or

(c) Within forty days thereafter.

(2) These sections shall also be explained again to each member of the organized militia each time a member of the organized militia reenlists or extends his or her enlistment.

(3) A complete text of this code and of the regulations prescribed by the governor thereunder shall be made available to any member of the organized militia, upon request, for personal examination. [2009 c 378 § 30; 1989 c 48 § 74; 1963 c 220 § 122.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 38.38.792 was recodified as RCW 38.38.783 by the code reviser September 2009.

**RCW 38.38.852 [Art. 138] Complaints of wrongs.** Members of the organized militia who believe themselves wronged by their commanding officer, and who, upon due application to that commanding officer, are refused redress, may complain to any superior commissioned officer, who shall forward the complaint to the governor or adjutant general. The governor or adjutant general shall examine the complaint and take proper measures for redressing the wrong complained of. [1989 c 48 § 75; 1963 c 220 § 123.]

**RCW 38.38.856 [Art. 139] Redress of injuries to property.** (1) Whenever complaint is made to any commanding officer that wilful damage has been done to the property of any person or that the person's property has been wrongfully taken by members of the organized militia, the commanding officer may, subject to such regulations as the governor may prescribe, convene a board to investigate the complaint. The board shall consist of from one to three commissioned officers and, for the purpose of that investigation, it has power to summon witnesses and examine them upon oath or affirmation, to receive depositions or other documentary evidence, and to assess the damages sustained against the responsible parties. The assessment of damages made by the board is subject to the approval of the commanding officer, and in the amount approved by the commanding officer shall be charged against the pay of the offenders. The order of the commanding officer directing charges herein authorized is conclusive, except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, on any disbursing officer for the payment by the disbursing officer to the injured parties of the damages so assessed and approved.

(2) If the offenders cannot be ascertained, but the organization or detachment to which they belong is known, charges totaling the amount of damages assessed and approved may be paid to the injured parties from the military funds of the units of the organized militia to which the offenders belonged.

(3) Any person subject to this code who is accused of causing wilful damage to property has the right to be represented by counsel, to summon witnesses in the person's behalf, and to cross-examine those appearing against him or her. The person has the right of appeal to the next higher commander. [1989 c 48 § 76; 1963 c 220 § 124.]

**RCW 38.38.860 [Art. 140] Execution of process and sentence.** In the organized militia not in federal service, the processes and sentences of its courts-martial shall be executed by the civil officers prescribed by the laws of the state. [1989 c 48 § 77; 1963 c 220 § 125.]

**RCW 38.38.864 [Art. 141] Process of military courts.** (1) Military courts may issue any process or mandate necessary to carry into effect their powers. Such a court may issue subpoenae and subpoenae duces tecum and enforce by attachment attendance of witnesses and production of books and records, when it is sitting within the state and the witnesses, books and records sought are also so located.

(2) Process and mandates may be issued by summary courts-martial, or the military judge of other military courts and may be directed to

and may be executed by the marshals of the military court or any peace officer and shall be in such form as may be prescribed by regulations issued under this code.

(3) All officers to whom process or mandates may be so directed shall execute them and make return of their acts thereunder according to the requirements of those documents. Except as otherwise specifically provided in this code, no such officer may demand or require payment of any fee or charge for receiving, executing, or returning such a process or mandate or for any service in connection therewith. [1989 c 48 § 78; 1963 c 220 § 126.]

**RCW 38.38.868 [Art. 142] Payment of fines and disposition thereof.** Fines imposed by a military court may be paid to it or to an officer executing its process. The amount of such a fine may be noted upon any state roll or account for pay of the delinquent and deducted from any pay or allowance due or thereafter to become due the person, until the fine is liquidated. Any sum so deducted shall be turned in to the military court which imposed the fine. Notwithstanding any other law, the officer collecting a fine or penalty imposed by a military court upon an officer or enlisted person shall pay it within thirty days to the state treasurer. Such a fine becomes a part of, is credited to, and may be spent from, the military fund of the organization or detachment to which the officer or enlisted person who paid the fine belonged. The treasurer of the state shall then report the amount thereof designating the organization or detachment to which it belongs, to the adjutant general of the state, and shall pay it over to the organization or detachment on request of its commanding officer. [1989 c 48 § 79; 1963 c 220 § 127.]

**RCW 38.38.872 [Art. 143] Immunity for action of military courts.** No accused may bring an action or proceeding against the convening authority or a member of a military court or officer or person acting under its authority or reviewing its proceedings because of the approval, imposition, or execution of any sentence or the imposition or collection of a fine or penalty, or the execution of any process or mandate of a military court. [1963 c 220 § 128.]

**RCW 38.38.876 [Art. 144] Presumption of jurisdiction.** The jurisdiction of the military courts and boards established by this code shall be presumed and the burden of proof rests on any person seeking to oust those courts or boards of jurisdiction in any action or proceeding. [1963 c 220 § 129.]

**RCW 38.38.880 [Art. 145] Delegation of authority by the governor.** The governor may delegate any authority vested in him or her under this code, and may provide for the subdelegation of any such authority, except the power given him or her by RCW 38.38.192 and 38.38.240. [2011 c 336 § 788; 1963 c 220 § 130.]

**RCW 38.38.884 [Art. 146] Uniformity of interpretation.** This chapter shall be so construed as to effectuate its general purpose to make uniform the law of those states which enact it and, so far as

practical, to make that law uniform with the law of the United States.  
[1963 c 220 § 131.]

**RCW 38.38.888 [Art. 147] Short title.** This chapter may be cited  
as the "Washington code of military justice." [1963 c 220 § 132.]

**Chapter 38.40 RCW**  
**MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

**Sections**

- 38.40.010 Liability of officers and enlisted persons on duty.
- 38.40.020 Not liable for exercise of judgment.
- 38.40.025 Liability of state for federal activities.
- 38.40.030 Compensation for death or disability.
- 38.40.040 Interference with employment—Penalty.
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- 38.40.060 Military leave for public employees.
- 38.40.100 Notice for duty.
- 38.40.110 Employment or membership in other organizations—  
Discrimination prohibited—Penalty—Civil cause of  
action.
- 38.40.120 Authorized military organizations.
- 38.40.130 Corporations may be formed.
- 38.40.150 Property to remain public property.
- 38.40.200 Military department capital account.
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- 38.40.220 Military department active state service account.
- 38.40.230 Purple heart state—Signage—Account.

*Acknowledgments and powers of attorney: Chapter 73.20 RCW.*

*Acquisitions of lands for permanent military installations: Chapter  
37.16 RCW.*

*Common carriers—Special exceptions on carriage of property, government  
freight, etc.: RCW 81.28.080.*

*Eminent domain  
condemnation for military purposes: RCW 8.04.170, 8.04.180.  
notice where military land is involved: RCW 8.28.030.*

*Evidence  
proof of missing in action, capture by enemy, etc.: RCW  
5.40.030.  
written finding of presumed death as prima facie evidence:  
RCW 5.40.020.*

*Federal areas and jurisdiction: Title 37 RCW.*

*Gas bombs: RCW 70.74.310.*

*Joint armory sites: RCW 36.64.050.*

*Juries—Persons exempt: RCW 2.36.080.*

*Mental illness hospitalization  
authority over patient—Federal agencies, private  
establishments: RCW 71.02.490.  
commitment to veterans administration or other federal  
agency—General provision: RCW 73.36.165.*

*Militia*

*privilege from arrest: State Constitution Art. 10 § 5.  
soldiers' home: State Constitution Art. 10 § 3.*

*Personal exemptions—Pension money exempt: RCW 6.15.020.*

*Residence, contingencies affecting: State Constitution Art. 6 § 4.*

*Soldiers' and veterans' homes and veterans' cemetery: Chapter 72.36  
RCW.*

*Statute of limitations tolled—As to person in military service of  
United States: RCW 4.16.220.*

*Tidelands and shorelands grants to United States: RCW 79.125.760  
through 79.125.790.*

*Unlawful firearms—Exception: RCW 9.41.190.*

*Veterans and veterans' affairs: Title 73 RCW.*

*Veterans' rehabilitation council: Chapter 43.61 RCW.*

*Voter, when privileged from military duty: State Constitution Art. 6 §  
5.*

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*Veterans and veterans' affairs: Title 73 RCW.*

*Veterans' rehabilitation council: Chapter 43.61 RCW.*

*Voter, when privileged from military duty: State Constitution Art. 6 §  
5.*

**RCW 38.40.010 Liability of officers and enlisted persons on duty.** Members of the militia ordered into active service of the state by any proper authority shall not be liable civilly or criminally for any act or acts done by them while on such duty nor shall any action lie against any officer or enlisted person for any acts done by the officer or enlisted person in line of duty by virtue of any order which may thereafter be held invalid by any civil court. When a suit or proceeding shall be commenced in any court by any person against any officer or enlisted person of the militia for any act done by such officer or enlisted person in his or her official capacity or in the discharge of any duty, or against any person acting under the authority or order of such officer or by virtue of any warrant issued pursuant to law, the defendant may require the person prosecuting or instituting the proceeding to give security for the payment of all costs that may be awarded to the defendant, and the defendant in all cases may make a general denial and, under such general denial, give all other or any special defense matter in evidence. In case the plaintiff shall be nonsuited or the verdict or judgment be in favor of the defendant, treble costs shall be assessed against the plaintiff. The defendant in such action shall be defended by the attorney general at the expense of the state, but private counsel may also be employed by the defendant. The venue of all such actions shall be Thurston county and the state of Washington shall be in all cases a necessary party defendant. [1989 c 19 § 45; 1943 c 130 § 13; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 8603-13. Cf. 1909 c 134 § 25, part; 1895 c 108 § 173, part.]

**RCW 38.40.020 Not liable for exercise of judgment.** The commanding officer of any of the military forces of the state of

Washington engaged under the order of proper authority in the suppression of insurrection, the dispersion of a mob, the protection of life or property, or the enforcement of the laws, shall exercise discretion as to the propriety of the means to be used in controlling or dispersing of any mob or other unlawful assembly and, if he or she exercises his or her honest judgment thereon, he or she shall not be liable in either a civil or criminal action for any act done in line of duty. [1989 c 19 § 46; 1943 c 130 § 14; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 8603-14. Cf. 1909 c 134 § 25, part; 1895 c 108 § 173, part.]

**RCW 38.40.025 Liability of state for federal activities.**

Neither the state of Washington, its officers, employees, or agents, nor any member of the militia may be held liable in any civil action for damages arising out of any of the activities of the military forces of the state of Washington while engaged in activities during which the officers, employees, agents, or members are considered employees of the federal government under the federal tort claims act, \*26 U.S.C. Sec. 2671 et seq. [1987 c 26 § 2.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The reference to 26 U.S.C. appears to be incorrect. Reference to 28 U.S.C. was apparently intended.

**Legislative declaration—1987 c 26:** "The legislature recognizes that Congress has established comprehensive administrative programs to compensate members of the military forces for injuries they may incur while performing training for national defense." [1987 c 26 § 1.]

**Severability—1987 c 26:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1987 c 26 § 3.]

**RCW 38.40.030 Compensation for death or disability.** If any member of the organized militia is injured, incapacitated, or otherwise disabled while in active state service or inactive duty as a member of the organized militia, he or she shall receive from the state of Washington just and reasonable relief in the amount to be determined as provided in this section, including necessary medical care. If the member dies from disease contracted or injury received or is killed while in active state service or inactive duty under order of the governor, then the dependents of the deceased shall receive such compensation as may be allowed as provided in this section. If the United States or any agent thereof, in accordance with any federal statute or regulation, furnishes monetary assistance, benefits, or other temporary or permanent relief to militia members or to their dependents for injuries arising out of and occurring in the course of their activities as militia members, but not including Social Security benefits, then the amount of compensation which any militia member or his or her dependents are otherwise entitled to receive from the state of Washington as provided in this section shall be reduced by the amount of monetary assistance, benefits, or other temporary or permanent relief the militia member or his or her dependents have received and will receive from the United States or any agent thereof as a result of his or her injury. All claims arising under this section shall be inquired into by a board of three officers, at least

one being a medical officer, to be appointed by the adjutant general. The board has the same power to take evidence, administer oaths, issue subpoenas, compel witnesses to attend and testify and produce books and papers, and punish their failure to do so as is possessed by a general court martial. The amount of compensation or benefits payable shall conform as nearly as possible to the general schedule of payments and awards provided under the workers' compensation law in effect in the state of Washington at the time the disability or death occurred. The findings of the board shall be reviewed by the adjutant general for final approval. The adjutant general may return the proceedings for revision or for the taking of further testimony. The action of the board when finally approved by the adjutant general is final and conclusive and constitutes the fixed award for the injury or loss and is a debt of the state of Washington. [2019 c 147 § 1; 1989 c 19 § 47; 1987 c 185 § 5; 1984 c 198 § 5; 1943 c 130 § 40; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 8603-40. Prior: 1923 c 49 § 3; 1917 c 107 § 38; 1909 c 134 § 60; 1895 c 108 § 92.]

**Intent—Severability—1987 c 185:** See notes following RCW 51.12.130.

*Workers' compensation: Title 51 RCW.*

**RCW 38.40.040 Interference with employment—Penalty.** A person, who either alone, or with another, wilfully deprives a member of the organized militia of Washington of his or her employment or prevents such member being employed, or obstructs or annoys said member or his or her employer in their trade, business or employment, because he or she is such member, or dissuades any person from enlisting in said organized militia by threat or injury to him or her in their employment, trade or business, in case he or she shall so enlist, shall be guilty of a gross misdemeanor and on conviction thereof shall be fined in a sum not exceeding five hundred dollars, or imprisonment in the county jail not more than six months, or by both such fine and imprisonment. [1989 c 19 § 48; 1943 c 130 § 46; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 8603-46. Prior: 1917 c 107 § 41; 1909 c 134 § 67; 1895 c 108 § 104, part.]

**RCW 38.40.050 Discharge from employment—Penalty.** No member of the organized militia of Washington shall be discharged by his or her employer by reason of the performance of any military duties upon which he or she may be ordered. When any member of the organized militia of Washington is ordered upon active state service or inactive duty which takes the member from his or her employment the member may apply upon the termination of such duty to be restored to his or her position and employment, and if the tour of duty shall have continued for a period not longer than three months, any employer or the officer or manager of any firm or corporation having authority to reemploy such member and failing to do so shall be guilty of a gross misdemeanor, and on conviction thereof shall be fined in any sum not exceeding five hundred dollars, or imprisonment in the county jail for a period not exceeding six months, or by both such fine and imprisonment. [1989 c 19 § 49; 1943 c 130 § 48; Rem. Supp. 1943 §

8603-48. Prior: 1917 c 107 § 43; 1909 c 134 § 69; 1895 c 108 § 104, part.]

**RCW 38.40.060 Military leave for public employees.** (1) Every officer and employee of the state or of any county, city, or other political subdivision thereof who is a member of the Washington national guard or of the army, navy, air force, coast guard, or marine corps reserve of the United States, or of any organized reserve or armed forces of the United States shall be entitled to and shall be granted military leave of absence from such employment for a period not exceeding twenty-one days during each year beginning October 1st and ending the following September 30th in order that the person may report for required military duty, training, or drills including those in the national guard under Title 10 U.S.C., Title 32 U.S.C., or state active status.

(2) Such military leave of absence shall be in addition to any vacation or sick leave to which the officer or employee might otherwise be entitled, and shall not involve any loss of efficiency rating, privileges, or pay.

(3) During the period of military leave, the officer or employee shall receive from the state, or the county, city, or other political subdivision, his or her normal pay.

(4) (a) The officer or employee shall be charged military leave only for days that he or she is scheduled to work for the state or the county, city, or other political subdivision.

(b) If the officer or employee is scheduled to work a shift that begins on one calendar day and ends on the next calendar day, the officer or employee shall be charged military leave for only the first calendar day. If the officer or employee is scheduled to work a shift that begins on one calendar day and ends later than the next calendar day, the officer or employee shall be charged military leave for each calendar day except the calendar day on which the shift ends. [2018 c 99 § 1; 2010 c 91 § 1; 2008 c 71 § 5; 2001 c 71 § 1; 1991 c 25 § 1; 1989 c 19 § 50; 1957 c 236 § 1; 1939 c 113 § 1.]

**Effective date—2001 c 71:** "This act takes effect October 1, 2001." [2001 c 71 § 2.]

**Application—1991 c 25:** "This act applies to all public employees and officers who reported for active duty or active training duty, under RCW 38.40.060, on or after August 2, 1990." [1991 c 25 § 2.]

*Military family leave act: Chapter 49.77 RCW.*

**RCW 38.40.100 Notice for duty.** Orders for duty may be oral or written. Officers and enlisted persons may be warned for duty as follows: Either by stating the substance of the order, or by reading the order to the person warned, or by delivering a copy of such order to such person, or by leaving a copy of such order at his or her last known place of abode or business, with some person of suitable age and discretion, or by sending a copy of such order or notice containing the substance thereof, to such person by mail, directed to his or her last known place of abode or business. Orders may be transmitted by telegraph or telephone. Such warning may be given by any officer or

authorized enlisted person. The officer or enlisted person giving such warning shall, when required, make a return thereof, containing the names of persons warned and the time, place and manner of warning. Such returns shall be verified on oath and shall be prima facie evidence, on the trial of any person returned as a delinquent, of the facts therein stated. [1989 c 19 § 51; 1943 c 130 § 53; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 8603-53. Prior: 1909 c 134 § 65; 1895 c 108 § 102.]

**RCW 38.40.110 Employment or membership in other organizations—Discrimination prohibited—Penalty—Civil cause of action.** No club, society, association, corporation, employer, or organization shall by any constitution, rule, bylaws, resolution, vote or regulation, or otherwise, discriminate against or refuse to hire, employ, or reemploy any member of the organized militia of Washington because of his or her membership in said organized militia. Any person or persons, club, society, association, employer, corporation, or organization, violating or aiding, abetting, or assisting in the violation of any provision of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction thereof shall be fined in any sum not exceeding one hundred dollars and in addition thereto shall forfeit the right to do business for a period of thirty days. Any person who has been discriminated against in violation of this section shall have a civil cause of action for damages. [1991 c 43 § 9; 1989 c 19 § 52; 1943 c 130 § 47; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 8603-47. Prior: 1917 c 107 § 42; 1909 c 134 § 68.]

**RCW 38.40.120 Authorized military organizations.** No organized body other than the recognized militia organizations of this state, armed forces of the United States, students of educational institutions where military science is a prescribed part of the course of instruction or bona fide veterans organizations shall associate themselves together as a military company or organize or parade in public with firearms: PROVIDED, That nothing herein shall be construed to prevent authorized parades by the organized militia of another state or armed forces of foreign countries. Any person participating in any such unauthorized organization shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. [1989 c 19 § 53; 1943 c 130 § 54; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 8603-54. Prior: 1909 c 249 § 294; 1903 c 135 § 1.]

**RCW 38.40.130 Corporations may be formed.** The officers, or the officers and enlisted persons of any regiment, battalion, company or similar unit of the organized militia of Washington, or the officers and enlisted persons of any two or more companies or similar units of the organized militia of the state of Washington, located at the same station, are hereby authorized to organize themselves into a corporation for social purposes and for the purpose of holding, acquiring and disposing of such property, real and personal, as such military organizations may possess or acquire. Such corporations shall not be required to pay any filing or license fee to the state.

The dissolution or disbandment of any such unit as a military organization shall not in itself terminate the existence of the corporation, but the existence of the same may continue for the period limited in its articles of incorporation for the benefit of such corporation.

Upon the dissolution or disbandment of any such unit which shall not have incorporated, and which shall at the time of such dissolution or disbandment possess any funds or property, the title to such funds or property shall immediately vest in the state of Washington, and the adjutant general shall take possession thereof and dispose of the same to the best interest of the organized militia of Washington. [1989 c 19 § 54; 1943 c 130 § 49; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 8603-49. Prior: 1923 c 49 § 4; 1917 c 107 § 44; 1915 c 19 § 1; 1909 c 134 § 71; 1895 c 108 §§ 123, 124.]

**RCW 38.40.150 Property to remain public property.** All property issued to organizations and members of the organized militia of Washington shall be and remain public property. [1943 c 130 § 38; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 8603-38. Prior: 1917 c 107 § 33; 1909 c 134 § 51; 1895 c 108 § 78.]

**RCW 38.40.200 Military department capital account.** The military department capital account is created in the state treasury. All receipts from the sale of state-owned military department property must be deposited into the account. Money in the account may be spent only after appropriation. Expenditures from the account may be used only for military department capital projects. [2005 c 252 § 1.]

**RCW 38.40.210 Military department rental and lease account.** The military department rental and lease account is created in the state treasury. All receipts from the rental or lease of state-owned military department property must be deposited into the account. Money in the account may be spent only after appropriation. Expenditures from the account may be used only for operating and maintenance costs of military property. [2005 c 252 § 2.]

**RCW 38.40.220 Military department active state service account.** The military department active state service account is created in the state treasury. Moneys may be placed in the account from legislative appropriations and transfers, federal appropriations, or any other lawful source. Moneys in the account may be spent only after appropriation. Expenditures from the account may be used only for claims and expenses for the organized militia called into active state service to perform duties under RCW 38.08.040 that are not paid under RCW 38.24.010 from nonappropriated funds, including but not limited to claims and expenses arising from anticipated planning, training, exercises, and other administrative duties that are not of an emergency nature. [2008 c 44 § 1.]

**RCW 38.40.230 Purple heart state—Signage—Account.** (1) Any state agency operating pursuant to this title is authorized to erect signs recognizing that Washington state is a purple heart state as designated in RCW 1.20.190. State agencies are authorized to accept gifts or donations to assist efforts related to Washington state being a purple heart state.

(2) The military department purple heart state account is created in the custody of the state treasurer. All receipts from gifts and donations received pursuant to this section must be deposited into the account. Expenditures from the account may only be used to erect signs or other activities that assist efforts related to Washington state being a purple heart state, as authorized under this section. Only the director of the military department or the director's designee may authorize expenditures from the account. The account is subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but an appropriation is not required for expenditures. [2021 c 213 § 3.]

**Findings—2021 c 213:** See note following RCW 1.20.190.

**Chapter 38.42 RCW**  
**SERVICE MEMBERS' CIVIL RELIEF**

**Sections**

- 38.42.010 Definitions.
- 38.42.020 Applicability of chapter.
- 38.42.030 Protection of persons secondarily liable.
- 38.42.040 Waiver of rights pursuant to written agreement.
- 38.42.050 Protection of service members and their dependents against default judgments.
- 38.42.060 Stay of proceedings when service member has notice.
- 38.42.070 Fines and penalties under contracts.
- 38.42.080 Codefendants.
- 38.42.090 Computation of statutes of limitation.
- 38.42.100 Inappropriate use of chapter.
- 38.42.110 Restructure of business loan interest rate.
- 38.42.120 Federal servicemembers civil relief act—Applicability.
- 38.42.130 Civil action—Person aggrieved.
- 38.42.140 Civil action—Attorney general.
- 38.42.150 Civil investigative demands—Standards—Limitations—Enforcement.
- 38.42.160 Termination or suspension of contracts upon receipt of military service orders.
- 38.42.170 Termination of employment contract upon receipt of military service orders—Spouses.
- 38.42.900 Short title.
- 38.42.903 Effective date—2005 c 254.
- 38.42.904 Construction—Chapter applicable to state registered domestic partnerships—2009 c 521.



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**RCW 38.42.010 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter, unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Attorney general" means the attorney general of the state of Washington or any person designated by the attorney general to carry out a responsibility of the attorney general under this chapter.

(2) "Business loan" means a loan or extension of credit granted to a business entity that: (a) Is owned and operated by a service member, in which the service member is either (i) a sole proprietor, or (ii) the owner of at least fifty percent of the entity; and (b) experiences a material reduction in revenue due to the service member's military service.

(3) "Dependent" means:

(a) The service member's spouse;

(b) The service member's minor child; or

(c) An individual for whom the service member provided more than one-half of the individual's support for one hundred eighty days immediately preceding an application for relief under this chapter.

(4) "Financial institution" means an institution as defined in RCW 30A.22.041.

(5) "Judgment" does not include temporary orders as issued by a judicial court or administrative tribunal in domestic relations cases under Title 26 RCW, including but not limited to establishment of a

temporary child support obligation, creation of a temporary parenting plan, or entry of a temporary protective or restraining order.

(6) "Military service" means a service member:

(a) Under a call to active service authorized by the president of the United States or the secretary of defense for a period of more than thirty consecutive days; or

(b) Under a call to active service authorized by the governor under RCW 38.08.040 for a period of more than thirty consecutive days.

(7) "National guard" has the meaning in RCW 38.04.010.

(8) "Service member" means an active member of the United States armed forces, a member of a military reserve component, or a member of the national guard who is either stationed in or a resident of Washington state. [2018 c 197 § 1; 2014 c 65 § 1; 2012 c 24 § 1; 2006 c 253 § 1; 2005 c 254 § 1.]

**RCW 38.42.020 Applicability of chapter.** (1) Any service member who is ordered to report for military service and his or her dependents are entitled to the rights and protections of this chapter during the period beginning on the date on which the service member receives the order and ending one hundred eighty days after termination of or release from military service.

(2) This chapter applies to any judicial or administrative proceeding commenced in any court or agency in Washington state in which a service member or his or her dependent is a party. This chapter does not apply to criminal proceedings.

(3) This chapter shall be construed liberally so as to provide fairness and do substantial justice to service members and their dependents. [2014 c 65 § 2; 2005 c 254 § 2.]

**RCW 38.42.030 Protection of persons secondarily liable.** (1) Whenever pursuant to this chapter a court stays, postpones, or suspends (a) the enforcement of an obligation or liability, (b) the prosecution of a suit or proceeding, (c) the entry or enforcement of an order, writ, judgment, or decree, or (d) the performance of any other act, the court may likewise grant such a stay, postponement, or suspension to a surety, guarantor, endorser, accommodation maker, comaker, or other person who is or may be primarily or secondarily subject to the obligation or liability the performance or enforcement of which is stayed, postponed, or suspended.

(2) When a judgment or decree is vacated or set aside, in whole or in part, pursuant to this chapter, the court may also set aside or vacate, as the case may be, the judgment or decree as to a surety, guarantor, endorser, accommodation maker, comaker, or other person who is or may be primarily or secondarily liable on the contract or liability for the enforcement of the judgment decree. [2005 c 254 § 3.]

**RCW 38.42.040 Waiver of rights pursuant to written agreement.** (1) A service member may waive any of the rights and protections provided by this chapter. In the case of a waiver that permits an action described in subsection (2) of this section, the waiver is effective only if made pursuant to a written agreement of the parties that is executed during or after the service member's period of military service. The written agreement shall specify the legal

instrument to which the waiver applies and, if the service member is not party to that instrument, the service member concerned.

(2) The requirement in subsection (1) of this section for a written waiver applies to the following: (a) The modification, termination, or cancellation of a contract, lease, or bailment; or an obligation secured by a mortgage, trust, deed, lien, or other security in the nature of a mortgage; and (b) the repossession, retention, foreclosure, sale, forfeiture, or taking possession of property that is security for any obligation or was purchased or received under a contract, lease, or bailment. [2005 c 254 § 4.]

**RCW 38.42.050 Protection of service members and their dependents against default judgments.**

(1) This section applies to any civil action or proceeding in which a service member or his or her dependent is a defendant and does not make an appearance under applicable court rules or by law.

(2) In any action or proceeding covered by this section, the court, before entering judgment for the plaintiff, shall require the plaintiff to file with the court an affidavit:

(a) Stating whether the defendant is in military service, or is a dependent of a service member in military service, and showing necessary facts to support the affidavit; or

(b) If the plaintiff is unable to determine whether the defendant is in military service or is a dependent of a service member in military service, stating that the plaintiff is unable to determine whether the defendant is in military service or is a dependent of a service member in military service.

(3) (a) To determine whether or not a defendant is a dependent of a service member in the military service under this chapter, the plaintiff may serve on or mail via first-class mail to the defendant a written notice in substantially the following form:

**"NOTICE:** State and federal law provide protections to defendants who are in the military service, and to their dependents. Dependents of a service member are the service member's spouse, the service member's minor child, or an individual for whom the service member provided more than one-half of the individual's support for one hundred eighty days immediately preceding an application for relief.

One protection provided is the protection against the entry of a default judgment in certain circumstances. This notice pertains only to a defendant who is a dependent of a member of the national guard or a military reserve component under a call to active service, or a national guard member under a call to service authorized by the governor of the state of Washington, for a period of more than thirty consecutive days. Other defendants in military service also have protections against default judgments not covered by this notice. If you are the dependent of a member of the national guard or a military reserve component under a call to active service, or a national guard member under a call to service authorized by the governor of the state of Washington, for a period of more than thirty consecutive days, you should notify the plaintiff or the plaintiff's attorneys in writing of your status as such within twenty days of the receipt of this notice. If you fail to do so, then a court or an administrative tribunal may presume that you are not a dependent of an active duty member of the national guard or reserves, or a national guard member under a call to service authorized by the governor of the state of Washington, and

proceed with the entry of an order of default and/or a default judgment without further proof of your status. Your response to the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorneys about your status does not constitute an appearance for jurisdictional purposes in any pending litigation nor a waiver of your rights."

(b) If the notice is either served on the defendant twenty or more days prior to an application for an order of default or a default judgment, or mailed to the defendant more than twenty-three days prior to such application, and the defendant fails to timely respond, then for purposes of entry of an order of default or default judgment, the court or administrative tribunal may presume that the defendant is not a dependent of a service member in the military service under this chapter.

(c) Nothing prohibits the plaintiff from allowing a defendant more than twenty days to respond to the notice, or from amending the notice to so provide.

(4) If in an action covered by this section it appears that the defendant is in military service or is a dependent of a service member in military service, the court may not enter a judgment until after the court appoints an attorney to represent the defendant. If an attorney appointed under this section to represent a service member or his or her dependent cannot locate the service member or dependent, actions by the attorney in the case do not waive any defense of the service member or dependent or otherwise bind the service member or dependent.

(5) In an action covered by this section in which the defendant is in military service or is a dependent of a service member in military service, the court shall grant a stay of proceedings until one hundred eighty days after termination of or release from military service, upon application of defense counsel, or on the court's own motion, if the court determines that:

(a) There may be a defense to the action and a defense cannot be presented without presence of the defendant; or

(b) After due diligence, counsel has been unable to contact the defendant or otherwise determine if a meritorious defense exists. The defendant's failure to communicate or cooperate with counsel after having been contacted is not grounds to find that counsel has been unable to contact the defendant or that counsel has been unable to determine if a meritorious defense exists.

(6) No bar to entry of judgment under subsection (4) of this section or requirement for grant of stay under subsection (5) of this section precludes the entry of temporary orders in domestic relations cases. If a court or administrative tribunal enters a temporary order as allowed under this subsection, it shall include a finding that failure to act, despite the absence of the service member, would result in manifest injustice to the other interested parties. Temporary orders issued without the service member's participation shall not set any precedent for the final disposition of the matters addressed therein.

(7) If a service member or dependent who is a defendant in an action covered by this section receives actual notice of the action, the service member or dependent may request a stay of proceedings pursuant to RCW 38.42.060.

(8) A person who makes or uses an affidavit permitted under this section knowing it to be false, is guilty of a class C felony.

(9) If a default judgment is entered in an action covered by this section against a service member or his or her dependent during the service member's period of military service or within one hundred eighty days after termination of or release from military service, the court entering the judgment shall, upon application by or on behalf of the service member or his or her dependent, reopen the judgment for the purpose of allowing the service member or his or her dependent to defend the action if it appears that:

(a) The service member or dependent was materially affected by reason of that military service in making a defense to the action; and

(b) The service member or dependent has a meritorious or legal defense to the action or some part of it.

(10) If a court vacates, sets aside, or reverses a default judgment against a service member or his or her dependent and the vacating, setting aside, or reversing is because of a provision of this chapter, that action does not impair a right or title acquired by a bona fide purchaser for value. [2012 c 24 § 2; 2006 c 80 § 1; 2005 c 254 § 5.]

**RCW 38.42.060 Stay of proceedings when service member has**

**notice.** (1) This section applies to any civil action or proceeding in which a defendant at the time of filing an application under this section:

(a)(i) Is in military service, or it is within one hundred eighty days after termination of or release from military service; or

(ii) Is a dependent of a service member in military service; and

(b) Has received actual notice of the action or proceeding.

(2) At any stage before final judgment in a civil action or proceeding in which a service member or his or her dependent described in subsection (1) of this section is a party, the court may on its own motion and shall, upon application by the service member or his or her dependent, stay the action until one hundred eighty days after termination of or release from military service, if the conditions in subsection (3) of this section are met.

(3) An application for a stay under subsection (2) of this section shall include the following:

(a) A letter or other communication setting forth facts stating the manner in which current military duty requirements materially affect the service member's or dependent's ability to appear and stating a date when the service member or dependent will be available to appear; and

(b) A letter or other communication from the service member's commanding officer stating that the service member's current military duty prevents either the service member's or dependent's appearance and that military leave is not authorized for the service member at the time of the letter.

(4) An application for a stay under this section does not constitute an appearance for jurisdictional purposes and does not constitute a waiver of any substantive or procedural defense, including a defense relating to lack of personal jurisdiction.

(5) A service member or dependent who is granted a stay of a civil action or proceeding under subsection (2) of this section may apply for an additional stay based on the continuing material affect of military duty on the service member's or dependent's ability to appear. Such application may be made by the service member or his or her dependent at the time of the initial application under subsection

(2) of this section or when it appears that the service member or his or her dependent is unable to prosecute or defend the action. The same information required under subsection (3) of this subsection shall be included in an application under this subsection.

(6) If the court refuses to grant an additional stay of proceedings under subsection (2) of this section, the court shall appoint counsel to represent the service member or his or her dependent in the action or proceeding.

(7) A service member or dependent who applies for a stay under this section and is unsuccessful may not seek the protections afforded by RCW 38.42.050. [2005 c 254 § 6.]

**RCW 38.42.070 Fines and penalties under contracts.** (1) If an action for compliance with the terms of a contract is stayed pursuant to this chapter, a penalty shall not accrue for failure to comply with the terms of the contract during the period of the stay.

(2) If a service member or his or her dependent fails to perform an obligation arising under a contract and a penalty is incurred arising from that nonperformance, a court may reduce or waive the fine or penalty if:

(a) (i) The service member was in military service at the time the fine or penalty was incurred; or

(ii) The action is against a dependent of the service member and the service member was in military service at the time the fine or penalty was incurred; and

(b) The ability of the service member or dependent to perform the obligation was materially affected by the military service. [2005 c 254 § 7.]

**RCW 38.42.080 Codefendants.** If the service member or his or her dependent is a codefendant with others who are not in military service and who are not entitled to the relief and protections provided under this chapter, the plaintiff may proceed against those other defendants with the approval of the court. [2005 c 254 § 8.]

**RCW 38.42.090 Computation of statutes of limitation.** (1) The period of a service member's military service may not be included in computing any period limited by law, rule, or order, for the bringing of any action or proceeding in a court, or in any board bureau, commission, department, or other agency of a state, or political subdivision of a state, or the United States by or against the service member or the service member's dependents, heirs, executors, administrators, or assigns.

(2) A period of military service may not be included in computing any period provided by law for the redemption of real property sold or forfeited to enforce an obligation, tax, or assessment.

(3) This section does not apply to any period of limitation prescribed by or under the internal revenue laws of the United States. [2005 c 254 § 9.]

**RCW 38.42.100 Inappropriate use of chapter.** If a court determines, in any proceeding to enforce a civil right, that any interest, property, or contract has been transferred or acquired with

the intent to delay the just enforcement of such right by taking advantage of this chapter, the court shall enter such judgment or make such order as might lawfully be entered or made concerning such transfer or acquisition. [2005 c 254 § 10.]

**RCW 38.42.110 Restructure of business loan interest rate.** (1) Upon the request of a service member with a qualifying business loan, the financial institution must restructure the interest rate of the loan to the equivalent provisions in the federal servicemembers civil relief act (50 U.S.C. App. 501 et seq.). The service member must notify the institution at least five days prior to the beginning of military service and submit official documentation that substantiates their eligibility for the protections of this chapter.

(2) This section applies only to loans with an outstanding balance of less than one hundred thousand dollars at the time the service member is called to military service.

(3) This section applies only to business loans executed on or after January 1, 2007. [2006 c 253 § 2.]

**RCW 38.42.120 Federal servicemembers civil relief act—Applicability.** (1) The federal servicemembers civil relief act of 2003, P.L. 108-189, as amended, is specifically declared to apply in proper cases in all the courts of this state.

(2) A violation of the federal servicemembers civil relief act of 2003 is a violation of this chapter. [2014 c 65 § 3.]

**RCW 38.42.130 Civil action—Person aggrieved.** (1) Any person aggrieved by a violation of this chapter may in a civil action:

(a) Obtain any appropriate equitable or declaratory relief with respect to the violation; and

(b) Recover all other appropriate relief, including monetary damages.

(2) The court may award to a person aggrieved by a violation of this chapter who prevails in an action brought under this section the costs of the action, including reasonable attorneys' fees. [2018 c 197 § 2; 2014 c 65 § 4.]

**RCW 38.42.140 Civil action—Attorney general.** (1) Civil proceedings to enforce this chapter may be brought by the attorney general against any person that:

(a) Engages in a pattern or practice of violating this chapter; or

(b) Engages in a violation of this chapter that raises an issue of significant public importance.

(2) In a civil action commenced under this section, the court may:

(a) Grant any appropriate equitable or declaratory relief, including costs and reasonable attorneys' fees, with respect to the violation of this chapter;

(b) Award all other appropriate relief, including monetary damages, to any person aggrieved by the violation; and

(c) To vindicate the public interest, assess a civil penalty:

(i) In an amount not exceeding fifty-five thousand dollars for a first violation; and

(ii) In an amount not exceeding one hundred ten thousand dollars for any subsequent violation.

(3) Upon timely application, a person aggrieved by a violation of this chapter with respect to which the civil action is commenced may intervene in such an action and may obtain appropriate relief as the person could obtain in a civil action under RCW 38.42.130 with respect to that violation, along with costs and reasonable attorneys' fees. [2018 c 197 § 3; 2014 c 65 § 5.]

**RCW 38.42.150 Civil investigative demands—Standards—Limitations**

**—Enforcement.** (1) Whenever the attorney general believes that any person may: (a) Be in possession, custody, or control of any original or copy of any book, record, report, memorandum, paper, communication, tabulation, map, chart, photograph, mechanical transcription, or other tangible document or recording, wherever situated, which he or she believes to be relevant to the subject matter of an investigation of a possible violation of this chapter, or federal statutes dealing with the same or similar matters that the attorney general is authorized to enforce; or (b) have knowledge of any information that the attorney general believes relevant to the subject matter of such an investigation, he or she may, prior to the institution of a civil proceeding thereon, execute in writing and cause to be served upon such a person, a civil investigative demand requiring such a person to produce the documentary material and permit inspection and copying, to answer in writing written interrogatories, to give oral testimony, or any combination of these demands pertaining to the documentary material or information. Documents and information obtained under this section are not admissible in criminal prosecutions.

(2) Each demand must:

(a) State the statute and section or sections thereof, the alleged violation of which is under investigation, and the general subject matter of the investigation;

(b) If the demand is for the production of documentary material, describe the class or classes of documentary material to be produced thereunder with reasonable specificity so as fairly to indicate the material demanded;

(c) Prescribe a return date within which the documentary material is to be produced, the answers to written interrogatories are to be made, or a date, time, and place at which oral testimony is to be taken; and

(d) Identify the members of the attorney general's staff to whom the documentary material is to be made available for inspection and copying, to whom answers to written interrogatories are to be made, or who are to conduct the examination for oral testimony.

(3) No demand may:

(a) Contain any requirement that would be unreasonable or improper if contained in a subpoena duces tecum, a request for answers to written interrogatories, or a request for deposition upon oral examination issued by a court of this state; or

(b) Require the disclosure of any documentary material that would be privileged or which for any other reason would not be required by a subpoena duces tecum issued by a court of this state.

(4) Service of such a demand may be made by:



(a) Delivering a duly executed copy thereof to the person to be served, or, if such a person is not a natural person, to any officer or managing agent of the person to be served;

(b) Delivering a duly executed copy thereof to the principal place of business in this state of the person to be served; or

(c) Mailing by registered or certified mail a duly executed copy thereof addressed to the person to be served at the principal place of business in this state, or, if the person has no place of business in this state, to his or her principal office or place of business.

(5) (a) Documentary material demanded pursuant to the provisions of this section must be produced for inspection and copying during normal business hours at the principal office or place of business of the person served, or at such other times and places as may be agreed upon by the person served and the attorney general.

(b) Written interrogatories in a demand served under this section must be answered in the same manner as provided in the civil rules for superior court.

(c) The oral testimony of any person obtained pursuant to a demand served under this section must be taken in the same manner as provided in the civil rules for superior court for the taking of depositions. In the course of the deposition, the assistant attorney general conducting the examination may exclude from the place where the examination is held all persons other than the person being examined, the person's counsel, and the officer before whom the testimony is to be taken.

(d) Any person compelled to appear pursuant to a demand for oral testimony under this section may be accompanied by counsel.

(e) The oral testimony of any person obtained pursuant to a demand served under this section must be taken in the county within which the person resides, is found, or transacts business, or in another place as may be agreed upon between the person served and the attorney general.

(6) If, after prior court approval, a civil investigative demand specifically prohibits disclosure of the existence or content of the demand, unless otherwise ordered by a superior court for good cause shown, it is a misdemeanor for any person if not a bank, trust company, mutual savings bank, credit union, or savings and loan association organized under the laws of the United States or of any one of the states to disclose to any other person the existence or content of the demand, except for disclosure to counsel for the recipient of the demand or unless otherwise required by law.

(7) No documentary material, answers to written interrogatories, or transcripts of oral testimony produced pursuant to a demand, or copies thereof, shall, unless otherwise ordered by a superior court for good cause shown, be produced for inspection or copying by, nor may the contents thereof be disclosed to, other than an authorized employee of the attorney general, without the consent of the person who produced the material, answered written interrogatories, or gave oral testimony, except as otherwise provided in this section:  
PROVIDED, That:

(a) Under the reasonable terms and conditions as the attorney general prescribes, the copies of the documentary material, answers to written interrogatories, or transcripts of oral testimony must be available for inspection and copying by the person who produced the material, answered written interrogatories, or gave oral testimony, or any duly authorized representative of such a person;

(b) The attorney general or any assistant attorney general may use the copies of documentary material, answers to written interrogatories, or transcripts of oral testimony as he or she determines necessary in the enforcement of this chapter, including presentation before any court: PROVIDED, That any material, answers to written interrogatories, or transcripts of oral testimony that contain trade secrets may not be presented except with the approval of the court in which action is pending after adequate notice to the person furnishing the material, answers to written interrogatories, or oral testimony.

(8) At any time before the return date specified in the demand, or within twenty days after the demand has been served, whichever period is shorter, a petition to extend the return date for, or to modify or set aside a demand issued pursuant to subsection (1) of this section, stating good cause, may be filed in the superior court for Thurston county, or in another county where the parties reside. A petition, by the person on whom the demand is served, stating good cause, to require the attorney general or any person to perform any duty imposed by the provisions of this section, and all other petitions in connection with a demand, may be filed in the superior court for Thurston county, or in the county where the parties reside. The court has jurisdiction to impose such sanctions as are provided for in the civil rules for superior court with respect to discovery motions.

(9) Whenever any person fails to comply with any civil investigative demand for documentary material, answers to written interrogatories, or oral testimony duly served upon him or her under this section, or whenever satisfactory copying or reproduction of any such material cannot be done and the person refuses to surrender the material, the attorney general may file, in the trial court of general jurisdiction of the county in which the person resides, is found, or transacts business, and serve upon the person a petition for an order of the court for the enforcement of this section, except that if the person transacts business in more than one county the petition must be filed in the county in which the person maintains his or her principal place of business, or in another county as may be agreed upon by the parties to the petition. Whenever any petition is filed in the trial court of general jurisdiction of any county under this section, the court has jurisdiction to hear and determine the matter so presented and to enter such an order or orders as may be required to carry into effect the provisions of this section, and may impose such sanctions as are provided for in the civil rules for superior court with respect to discovery motions. [2014 c 65 § 6.]

**RCW 38.42.160 Termination or suspension of contracts upon receipt of military service orders.** (1) A service member may, upon written notice, including electronic mail, terminate or suspend a contract described in subsection (2) of this section at any time after the date the service member receives military service orders:

(a) For a permanent change of station; or  
(b) To deploy with a military unit, or as an individual in support of a military operation, for a period of not less than thirty days.

(2) For the purposes of this section, a contract includes the provision of any of the following:

(a) Telecommunication services from a telecommunications company, as defined in RCW 80.04.010, except as provided in subsection (7) of this section;

(b) Internet services provided from an internet service provider;

(c) Health studio services from a health studio, as defined in RCW 19.142.010; and

(d) Subscription television services, as defined in RCW 9A.56.010, from a television service provider.

(3) The service member must provide written proof to the service provider of the official orders showing that the service member has been called into military service:

(a) At the time written notice is given; or

(b) If precluded by military necessity or circumstances that make the provision of proof at the time of giving written notice unreasonable or impossible, within ninety days after written notice has been given.

(4) A termination or suspension of services under this section is effective on the day written notice is given under subsection (2) of this section. The termination or suspension of services does not eliminate or alter any contractual obligation to pay for services rendered before the effective date of the written notice, unless otherwise provided for by law.

(5) (a) A service member who terminates or suspends the provision of services under this section may upon giving written notice, including electronic mail, to the provider within ninety days after termination of the service member's military service, reinstate the provision of services:

(i) On the same terms and conditions as originally agreed upon with the service provider before the termination or suspension, if the service member was in military service no longer than twelve consecutive months; or

(ii) On the same terms and conditions that have been offered by the provider to any new consumer at the lowest discounted or promotional rate within the previous twelve-month period immediately before termination of the service member's military service, if the service member was in military service longer than twelve consecutive months.

(b) Upon receipt of the written notice of reinstatement, the service provider must resume the provision of services or, if the services are no longer available, provide substantially similar services within a reasonable period of time not to exceed thirty days from the date of receipt of the written notice of reinstatement.

(6) A service member who terminates, suspends, or reinstates the provision of services under this section:

(a) May not be charged a penalty, fee, loss of deposit, or any other additional cost because of the termination, suspension, or reinstatement; and

(b) Is not liable for payment for any services after the effective date of the termination or suspension, or until the effective date of a reinstatement of services as described in subsection (4) of this section.

(7) A service member may terminate a contract for any service provided by a commercial mobile radio services provider in accordance with 50 U.S.C. Sec. 3956. [2018 c 197 § 4.]

**RCW 38.42.170 Termination of employment contract upon receipt of military service orders—Spouses.** (1) The spouse of a service member may terminate an employment contract without penalty at any time after the service member receives military service orders for a permanent change of station if:

(a) The spouse provides written notice, including email, to the employer of the termination under this section; and

(b) The spouse provides written proof to the employer of the official orders showing that the service member has received military orders for a permanent change of station.

(2) Termination of an employment contract under this section is effective on the day notice is given under subsection (1) of this section or on a date mutually agreed to by the parties to the employment contract.

(3) An employer may not impose any penalty for termination of an employment contract under this section.

(4) For purposes of this section:

(a) "Employment contract" means a contract that establishes the terms of employment or other professional relationship with the spouse of a service member. "Employment contract" does not include an independent contractor agreement.

(b) "Penalty" means any fee or cost or liability for breach of contract or any other adverse consequence imposed by the employer. "Penalty" does not include any requirements established by state or federal law.

(5) This section applies prospectively only and not retroactively. It applies only to employment contracts entered into on or after July 23, 2023.

(6) Nothing in this section shall be construed as altering the terms, conditions, or practices contained in any collective bargaining agreement in effect on July 23, 2023, until the expiration date of such agreement. [2023 c 165 § 9.]

**Short title—Finding—Intent—2023 c 165:** See notes following RCW 18.340.020.

**RCW 38.42.900 Short title.** This chapter may be known and cited as the Washington service members' civil relief act. [2005 c 254 § 11.]

**RCW 38.42.903 Effective date—2005 c 254.** This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [May 3, 2005]. [2005 c 254 § 15.]

**RCW 38.42.904 Construction—Chapter applicable to state registered domestic partnerships—2009 c 521.** For the purposes of this chapter, the terms spouse, marriage, marital, husband, wife, widow, widower, next of kin, and family shall be interpreted as applying equally to state registered domestic partnerships or individuals in state registered domestic partnerships as well as to marital relationships and married persons, and references to

dissolution of marriage shall apply equally to state registered domestic partnerships that have been terminated, dissolved, or invalidated, to the extent that such interpretation does not conflict with federal law. Where necessary to implement chapter 521, Laws of 2009, gender-specific terms such as husband and wife used in any statute, rule, or other law shall be construed to be gender neutral, and applicable to individuals in state registered domestic partnerships. [2009 c 521 § 83.]

**Chapter 38.44 RCW**  
**ENROLLMENT OF PERSONS**

**Sections**

- 38.44.010 Commander-in-chief may order enrollment.
- 38.44.020 Notice of enrollment.
- 38.44.030 Exemptions.
- 38.44.040 Penalties for dereliction or false certificate.
- 38.44.050 Compensation of enrolling officer.
- 38.44.060 Examination of records.

*Militia—Exemption from military duty: State Constitution Art. 10 § 6.*

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*Militia—Exemption from military duty: State Constitution Art. 10 § 6.*

**RCW 38.44.010 Commander-in-chief may order enrollment.** Whenever the commander-in-chief shall deem it necessary, in event of, or imminent danger of war, insurrection, rebellion, invasion, tumult, riot, resistance to law or process, breach of the peace, public disaster, or the imminent occurrence of any of these events, the commander-in-chief may order an enrollment by counties of all persons subject to military duty, designating the county assessor or some other person for each county to act as county enrolling officer. Each county enrolling officer may appoint such assistant or assistants as may be authorized by the commander-in-chief. In each county the enrollment shall include every sane able bodied inhabitant not under sentence for a felony, who is more than eighteen and less than forty-five years of age. The enrollment shall be made in triplicate and shall state the name, residence, age, occupation and previous or existing military or naval service of each person enrolled. When complete the rolls shall be verified under oath by the enrolling officer, who shall immediately thereupon file one copy with the adjutant general of the state and another with the county auditor, retaining the third copy for himself or herself. [1989 c 19 § 55; 1973 1st ex.s. c 154 § 57; 1909 c 134 § 4; 1895 c 108 § 4; RRS § 8456.]

**Severability—1973 1st ex.s. c 154:** See note following RCW 2.12.030.

**RCW 38.44.020 Notice of enrollment.** Persons making an enrollment under this chapter shall, at the time of making same, serve a notice of such enrollment upon each person enrolled, by delivering such notice to the enrollee personally or by leaving it with some person of suitable age and discretion at his or her place of business or residence, or by mailing such notice to him or her at the enrollee's last known place of residence, and shall make a return under oath of such service to accompany the copy of the enrollment filed with the adjutant general. The return shall be prima facie evidence of the facts therein. [1991 c 43 § 10; 1989 c 19 § 56; 1909 c 134 § 5; 1895 c 108 § 5; RRS § 8457.]

**RCW 38.44.030 Exemptions.** Whenever an enrollment shall have been ordered under this chapter, the commanding officers of existing organizations of militia, and the chiefs of all police and fire

departments shall make and deliver to the enrolling officer of the county in which such organization and departments are stationed, verified lists in triplicate of the members of their respective commands and departments, and the enrolling officer shall mark "Exempt" opposite the names of all persons so listed, attaching one copy of each such list to each copy of the enrollment. The enrolling officer shall also mark "Exempt" opposite the names of all federal, state and county officers. All other persons claiming exemption must within fifteen days after service upon them of the notice of enrollment make a written verified claim in duplicate of such exemption and file the same in the office of the county auditor, who shall within five days thereafter forward one copy thereof with remarks and recommendations to the adjutant general. Upon the expiration of the time within which any claim of exemption may be filed and received by the adjutant general, the latter shall notify the county auditor of the decision in each case where exemption has been claimed, and the county auditor shall write upon the roll opposite the name of each person whose claim of exemption has been allowed by the adjutant general, the word "Exempt." All those on the roll not marked "Exempt" shall be subject to military duty. [1991 c 43 § 11; 1989 c 19 § 57; 1909 c 134 § 6; 1895 c 108 § 6, part; RRS § 8458.]

**RCW 38.44.040 Penalties for dereliction or false certificate.**

If any officer or person, who becomes charged under this chapter with any duty relating to an enrollment of persons subject to military duty, refuses or neglects to perform the same within the time and substantially in the manner required by law, or if he or she shall knowingly make any false certificate, or if, when acting as county or assistant enrolling officer, he or she shall knowingly or willfully omit from the roll any person required by this chapter to be enrolled he or she shall thereby forfeit not less than one hundred nor more than five hundred dollars, to be sued for in the name of the state of Washington by the prosecuting attorney of the county in which such offense shall occur, the amount of the penalty to be determined by the court, and, when recovered, to be paid into the general fund of the state. [1991 c 43 § 12; 1989 c 19 § 58; 1909 c 134 § 7; RRS § 8459.]

**RCW 38.44.050 Compensation of enrolling officer.** Each county enrolling officer shall be allowed the sum of five cents per name enrolled and served with notice of enrollment by the enrolling officer or assistants, to be audited and paid as other military bills out of any moneys in the general fund appropriated to the military department, and from such allowance the enrolling officer must pay the assistant or assistants. [1991 c 43 § 13; 1989 c 19 § 59; 1909 c 134 § 8; RRS § 8460.]

**RCW 38.44.060 Examination of records.** All civil officers in each county, city and town shall allow persons authorized under this chapter to make enrollments, at all proper times, to examine their records and take copies thereof or information therefrom. It shall be the duty of every person, under the penalties provided in RCW 38.44.040, upon application of any person legally authorized to make an enrollment, truthfully to state all of the facts within his or her



knowledge concerning any individual of whom the enroller shall make inquiry. In event of a violation of this section the enroller shall report the facts to the prosecuting attorney, who shall at once proceed to enforce the penalty. [1991 c 43 § 14; 1989 c 19 § 60; 1909 c 134 § 9; 1895 c 108 § 6, part; RRS § 8461.]

**Chapter 38.48 RCW**  
**STATE AND NATIONAL DEFENSE**

**Sections**

38.48.050 Acceptance of national defense facilities act.

**Reviser's note:** The following acts, which appear to have been of limited duration, are omitted from RCW:

(1) 1941 c 200, 1943 c 191; RRS §§ 8607-7 through 8607-15; Act in aid of national defense;

(2) 1943 c 93; Authorizing sale or lease of tools and equipment to federal agencies;

(3) 1943 c 200; Washington state war council; and

(4) 1945 c 211; Armory drill pay for active state guard.

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(3) 1943 c 200; Washington state war council; and

(4) 1945 c 211; Armory drill pay for active state guard.

**RCW 38.48.050 Acceptance of national defense facilities act.**

The legislature hereby expresses its intention to secure to this state the benefits of the act of congress entitled the "National Defense Facilities Act" (10 U.S.C. Sec. 2231, et seq., as amended), and the state military department shall be charged with the duty to cooperate with any official or agency of the United States having powers or duties under the provisions of the said act of congress for the acquisition, construction, expansion, rehabilitation or conversion of facilities necessary for the administration and training of units of the state military department and reserve components of the armed forces of the United States. The provisions of the said act of congress are hereby accepted by this state and this state will observe and comply with the requirements thereof. [1989 c 19 § 61; 1953 c 181 § 1; 1953 c 277 § 4.]

**Chapter 38.52 RCW**  
**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

**Sections**

- 38.52.005 State military department to administer emergency management program—Local organizations authorized to change name.
- 38.52.010 Definitions.
- 38.52.020 Declaration of policy and purpose.
- 38.52.030 Director—Comprehensive emergency management plan—Statewide 911 emergency communications network—State coordinator of search and rescue operations—State program for emergency assistance—State coordinator for radioactive and hazardous waste emergency response programs—Interagency coordination and prioritization of continuity of operations planning—Catastrophic incidents, program to provide information and education.
- 38.52.037 Comprehensive state mine rescue plan—Submittal to legislature.
- 38.52.040 Emergency management council—Members—Ad hoc committees—Rules review—Function as state emergency response commission—Cybersecurity advisory committee—Intrastate mutual aid committee.
- 38.52.050 Governor's general powers and duties.
- 38.52.070 Local organizations and joint local organizations authorized—Establishment, operation—Emergency powers, procedures—Communication plans.
- 38.52.073 Communication plan status report—Life safety information communication report.
- 38.52.080 Outside aid—Rights and liabilities—Claims.
- 38.52.091 Mutual aid and interlocal agreements—Requirements.
- 38.52.100 Appropriations—Acceptance of funds, services, etc.
- 38.52.105 Disaster response account.
- 38.52.107 State hazard mitigation revolving loan account.
- 38.52.110 Use of existing services and facilities—Impressment of citizenry—First informer broadcasters.
- 38.52.115 Liability of federal, state, and local agencies, and employees—Facilitation of access of first informer broadcaster.
- 38.52.120 Political activity prohibited.
- 38.52.140 Status of civil service employee preserved.
- 38.52.150 Orders, rules, regulations—Enforcement—Availability—Penalty.
- 38.52.160 Matching funds from political subdivision may be required.
- 38.52.170 Plan for federal area.
- 38.52.180 Liability for property damage, bodily injury, death—Immunity—Assumption by state—Indemnification—Immunity from liability for covered volunteers.
- 38.52.190 Compensation for injury or death—Chapter exclusive.
- 38.52.195 Exemption from liability while providing construction, equipment, or work.

- 38.52.1951 Application of exemption from liability for architects and engineers.
- 38.52.198 Emergency care, rescue, assistance, or recovery services in mine rescue or recovery work—Immunity from liability.
- 38.52.200 Liability for compensation is in lieu of other liability—Exception.
- 38.52.205 Claims arising from emergency management related activities—Filing—Contents.
- 38.52.207 Claims arising from emergency management related activities—Filing—Consideration, adjustment, settlement, etc., by director—Effect.
- 38.52.210 Compensation boards—Established.
- 38.52.220 Compensation boards—Meetings—Claims not necessitating board meeting.
- 38.52.230 Compensation boards—Attendance of witnesses, oaths, rules—Members uncompensated.
- 38.52.240 Compensation boards—Duties as to compensation applications.
- 38.52.250 Compensation boards—Quorum—Transmittal of minutes, claims—Appeal to department.
- 38.52.260 When compensation furnished.
- 38.52.270 Minors entitled to benefits.
- 38.52.280 Compensation and benefits limited by appropriation.
- 38.52.290 Applicability of workers' compensation law.
- 38.52.300 Right of action against third party.
- 38.52.310 Coverage, classification, registration, of workers.
- 38.52.320 Schedule of payments.
- 38.52.330 Expenditures authorized—Claims, payment and disposition—Appeals.
- 38.52.340 Benefits under other compensation plans.
- 38.52.350 Benefits furnished under federal law—Reduction of state benefits.
- 38.52.360 Medical, surgical or hospital treatment.
- 38.52.370 Medical, surgical or hospital treatment—Reimbursement.
- 38.52.380 State compensation denied if payment prevents federal benefits.
- 38.52.390 Contracts or work on cost basis for emergency management activities.
- 38.52.400 Search and rescue activities—Powers and duties of local officials.
- 38.52.410 Search and rescue activities—Distribution of funds for compensation and reimbursement of volunteers.
- 38.52.420 Model contingency plan for pollution control facilities and hazardous waste management.
- 38.52.430 Emergency response caused by person's intoxication—Recovery of costs from convicted person.
- 38.52.440 Assistance for persons with disabilities present at scene of emergency—Assessment and report—Definitions.
- 38.52.500 Statewide 911 telephone service—Finding.
- 38.52.501 Statewide 911 emergency communications service—Findings.
- 38.52.505 Statewide 911 emergency service—Automatic location identification—Rules.
- 38.52.510 Statewide 911 communications systems—Funding by counties—State patrol public safety answering point.

- 38.52.520 State 911 coordination office.
- 38.52.525 State 911 coordination office—Public education materials.
- 38.52.531 911 advisory committee.
- 38.52.532 911 advisory committee—Annual legislative update—Modernization—Public safety answering points.
- 38.52.535 State 911 coordination office and advisory committee—Uniform national standards.
- 38.52.540 911 account.
- 38.52.545 Priorities for 911 funding.
- 38.52.550 Emergency communications systems and information—Immunity from civil liability.
- 38.52.561 911 calls from radio communications and interconnected voice over internet protocol service companies—Technical and operational standards.
- 38.52.575 Information in automatic number identification or automatic location identification database that is part of county 911 emergency communications system—Other information associated with county 911 emergency communications system—Exemption from public inspection and copying.
- 38.52.577 Information from automatic number identification, automatic location identification database, or voluntarily submitted for inclusion in emergency notification system—Exemption from public inspection and copying.
- 38.52.580 State agency communication plan for emergencies and disasters—Copy to legislature—Report.
- 38.52.590 Disaster resilience program.
- 38.52.900 Short title.
- 38.52.920 Repeal and saving.
- 38.52.930 Transfer of powers, duties, and functions to state military department.
- 38.52.940 Construction—Chapter applicable to state registered domestic partnerships—2009 c 521.

*Emergency volunteer health practitioners: Chapter 70.15 RCW.*

*Hazardous materials incidents, handling and liability: RCW 70.136.010 through 70.136.070.*

**Chapter 38.52 RCW**  
**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

**Sections**

- 38.52.005 State military department to administer emergency management program—Local organizations authorized to change name.
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*Emergency volunteer health practitioners: Chapter 70.15 RCW.*

*Hazardous materials incidents, handling and liability: RCW 70.136.010 through 70.136.070.*

**RCW 38.52.005 State military department to administer emergency management program—Local organizations authorized to change name.**

The department shall administer the comprehensive emergency management program of the state of Washington as provided for in this chapter. All local organizations, organized and performing emergency management functions pursuant to RCW 38.52.070, may change their name and be called the . . . . . department/division of emergency management. [1995 c 391 § 1; 1986 c 266 § 22; 1984 c 38 § 1; 1972 ex.s. c 6 § 1.]

**Effective date—1995 c 391:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect July 1, 1995." [1995 c 391 § 18.]

**Transfer of powers and duties of department of emergency management and office of archaeology and historic preservation—**

**Construction of statutory references:** "The department of emergency management and the office of archaeology and historic preservation are hereby abolished and their powers, duties, and functions are hereby transferred to the department of community development. All references to the director of emergency management or the department of emergency management and the office of archaeology and historic preservation in the Revised Code of Washington shall be construed to mean the director or department of community development." [1986 c 266 § 1.]

**Severability—1986 c 266:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1986 c 266 § 138.]

**RCW 38.52.010 Definitions.** As used in this chapter:

(1) "911 emergency communications system" means a public 911 communications system consisting of a network, database, and on-premises equipment that is accessed by dialing or accessing 911 and that enables reporting police, fire, medical, or other emergency situations to a public safety answering point. The system includes the capability to selectively route incoming 911 voice and data to the appropriate public safety answering point that operates in a defined 911 service area and the capability to automatically display the name, location, and telephone number of incoming 911 voice and data at the appropriate public safety answering point.

(2) "Automatic location identification" means information about a caller's location that is part of or associated with an enhanced or next generation 911 emergency communications system as defined in this section and RCW 82.14B.020 and intended for the purpose of display at a public safety answering point with incoming 911 voice or data, or both.

(3) "Automatic number identification" means a method for uniquely associating a communication device that has accessed 911 with the incoming 911 voice or data, or both, and intended for the purpose of display at a public safety answering point.

(4) "Baseline level of 911 service" means access to 911 dialing from all communication devices with service from a telecommunications provider within a county's jurisdiction so that incoming 911 voice and data communication is answered, received, and displayed on 911 equipment at a public safety answering point designated by the county.

(5) "Broadcaster" means a person or entity that holds a license issued by the federal communications commission under 47 C.F.R. Part 73, 74, 76, or 78.

(6) (a) "Catastrophic incident" means any natural or human-caused incident, including terrorism and enemy attack, that results in extraordinary levels of mass casualties, damage, or disruption severely affecting the population, infrastructure, environment, economy, or government functions.

(b) "Catastrophic incident" does not include an event resulting from individuals exercising their rights, under the first amendment, of freedom of speech, and of the people to peaceably assemble.

(7) "Communication plan," as used in RCW 38.52.070, means a section in a local comprehensive emergency management plan that addresses emergency notification of life safety information.

(8) "Continuity of government planning" means the internal effort of all levels and branches of government to provide that the capability exists to continue essential functions and services following a catastrophic incident. These efforts include, but are not limited to, providing for: (a) Orderly succession and appropriate changes of leadership whether appointed or elected; (b) filling vacancies; (c) interoperability communications; and (d) processes and procedures to reconvene government following periods of disruption that may be caused by a catastrophic incident. Continuity of government planning is intended to preserve the constitutional and statutory authority of elected officials at the state and local level and provide for the continued performance of essential functions and services by each level and branch of government.

(9) "Continuity of operations planning" means the internal effort of an organization to provide that the capability exists to continue essential functions and services in response to a comprehensive array of potential emergencies or disasters.

(10) "Department" means the state military department.

(11) "Director" means the adjutant general.

(12) "Emergency management" or "comprehensive emergency management" means the preparation for and the carrying out of all emergency functions, other than functions for which the military forces are primarily responsible, to mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies and disasters, and to aid victims suffering from injury or damage, resulting from disasters caused by all hazards, whether natural, technological, or human caused, and to provide support for search and rescue operations for persons and property in distress. However, "emergency management" or "comprehensive emergency management" does not mean preparation for emergency evacuation or relocation of residents in anticipation of nuclear attack.

(13)(a) "Emergency or disaster" as used in all sections of this chapter except RCW 38.52.430 means an event or set of circumstances which: (i) Demands immediate action to preserve public health, protect life, protect public property, or to provide relief to any stricken community overtaken by such occurrences; or (ii) reaches such a dimension or degree of destructiveness as to warrant the governor proclaiming a state of emergency pursuant to RCW 43.06.010.

(b) "Emergency" as used in RCW 38.52.430 means an incident that requires a normal police, coroner, fire, rescue, emergency medical services, or utility response as a result of a violation of one of the statutes enumerated in RCW 38.52.430.

(14) "Emergency response" as used in RCW 38.52.430 means a public agency's use of emergency services during an emergency or disaster as defined in subsection (13)(b) of this section.

(15) "Emergency services communication system" means a multicounty or countywide communications network, including an enhanced or next generation 911 emergency communications system, which provides rapid public access for coordinated dispatching of services, personnel, equipment, and facilities for police, fire, medical, or other emergency services.

(16) "Emergency services communications system data" includes voice or audio; multimedia, including pictures and video; text messages; telematics or telemetrics; or other information that is

received or displayed, or both, at a public safety answering point in association with a 911 access.

(17) "Emergency worker" means any person who is registered with a local emergency management organization or the department and holds an identification card issued by the local emergency management director or the department for the purpose of engaging in authorized emergency management activities or is an employee of the state of Washington or any political subdivision thereof who is called upon to perform emergency management activities.

(18) "Executive head" and "executive heads" means the county executive in those charter counties with an elective office of county executive, however designated, and, in the case of other counties, the county legislative authority. In the case of cities and towns, it means the mayor in those cities and towns with mayor-council or commission forms of government, where the mayor is directly elected, and it means the city manager in those cities and towns with council manager forms of government. Cities and towns may also designate an executive head for the purposes of this chapter by ordinance.

(19) "Expense of an emergency response" as used in RCW 38.52.430 means reasonable costs incurred by a public agency in reasonably making an appropriate emergency response to the incident, but shall only include those costs directly arising from the response to the particular incident. Reasonable costs shall include the costs of providing police, coroner, firefighting, rescue, emergency medical services, or utility response at the scene of the incident, as well as the salaries of the personnel responding to the incident.

(20) "First informer broadcaster" means an individual who:

(a) Is employed by, or acting pursuant to a contract under the direction of, a broadcaster; and

(b) (i) Maintains, including repairing or resupplying, transmitters, generators, or other essential equipment at a broadcast station or facility; or (ii) provides technical support services to broadcasters needed during a period of proclaimed emergency.

(21) "Incident command system" means: (a) An all-hazards, on-scene functional management system that establishes common standards in organization, terminology, and procedures; provides a means (unified command) for the establishment of a common set of incident objectives and strategies during multiagency/multijurisdiction operations while maintaining individual agency/jurisdiction authority, responsibility, and accountability; and is a component of the national interagency incident management system; or (b) an equivalent and compatible all-hazards, on-scene functional management system.

(22) "Injury" as used in this chapter shall mean and include accidental injuries and/or occupational diseases arising out of emergency management activities.

(23) "Interconnected voice over internet protocol service provider" means a provider of interconnected voice over internet protocol service as defined by the federal communications commission in 47 C.F.R. Sec. 9.3 on January 1, 2009, or a subsequent date determined by the department.

(24) "Life safety information" means information provided to people during a response to a life-threatening emergency or disaster informing them of actions they can take to preserve their safety. Such information may include, but is not limited to, information regarding evacuation, sheltering, sheltering-in-place, facility lockdown, and where to obtain food and water.

(25) "Local director" means the director of a local organization of emergency management or emergency services.

(26) "Local organization for emergency services or management" means an organization created in accordance with the provisions of this chapter by state or local authority to perform local emergency management functions.

(27) "Next generation 911" means an internet protocol-based system comprised of managed emergency services internet protocol networks, functional elements (applications), and databases that replicate enhanced 911 features and functions as defined in RCW 82.14B.020(4) that provide additional capabilities designed to provide access to emergency services from all connected communications sources and provide multimedia data capabilities for public safety answering points.

(28) "Next generation 911 demarcation point" means the location and equipment that separates the next generation 911 network from:

(a) A telecommunications provider's network, known as the ingress next generation 911 demarcation point; and

(b) A public safety answering point, known as the egress next generation 911 demarcation point.

(29) "Next generation 911 emergency communications system" means a public communications system consisting of networks, databases, and public safety answering point 911 hardware, software, and technology that is accessed by the public in the state through 911. The system includes the capability to: Route incoming 911 voice and data to the appropriate public safety answering point that operates in a defined 911 service area; answer incoming 911 voice and data; and receive and display incoming 911 voice and data, including automatic location identification and automatic number identification, at a public safety answering point. "Next generation 911 emergency communications system" includes future modernizations to the 911 system.

(30) "Next generation 911 emergency services internet protocol network" means a managed internet protocol network used for 911 emergency services communications that is managed and maintained, including security and credentialing functions, by the state 911 coordination office to provide next generation 911 emergency communications from the ingress next generation 911 demarcation point to the egress next generation 911 demarcation point. It provides the internet protocol transport infrastructure upon which application platforms and core services are necessary for providing next generation 911 services. Next generation 911 emergency services internet protocol networks may be constructed from a mix of dedicated and shared facilities and may be interconnected at local, regional, state, federal, national, and international levels to form an internet protocol-based inter-network (network of networks).

(31) "Next generation 911 service" means public access to the next generation 911 emergency communications system and its capabilities by accessing 911 from communication devices to report police, fire, medical, or other emergency situations to a public safety answering point.

(32) "Political subdivision" means any county, city or town.

(33) "Public agency" means the state, and a city, county, municipal corporation, district, town, or public authority located, in whole or in part, within this state which provides or may provide firefighting, police, ambulance, medical, or other emergency services.

(34) "Public safety answering point" means the public safety location that receives and answers 911 voice and data originating in a

given area as designated by the county. Public safety answering points must be equipped with 911 hardware, software, and technology that is accessed through 911 and is capable of answering incoming 911 calls and receiving and displaying incoming 911 data.

(a) "Primary public safety answering point" means a public safety answering point, as designated by the county, to which 911 calls and data originating in a given area and entering the next generation 911 network are initially routed for answering.

(b) "Secondary public safety answering point" means a public safety answering point, as designated by the county, that only receives 911 voice and data that has been transferred by other public safety answering points.

(35) "Radio communications service company" means every corporation, company, association, joint stock, partnership, and person, their lessees, trustees, or receivers appointed by any court, and every city or town making available facilities to provide commercial mobile radio services, as defined by 47 U.S.C. Sec. 332(d)(1), or cellular communications services for hire, sale, and both facilities-based and nonfacilities-based resellers, and does not include radio paging providers.

(36) "Search and rescue" means the acts of searching for, rescuing, or recovering by means of ground, marine, or air activity any person who becomes lost, injured, or is killed while outdoors or as a result of a natural, technological, or human-caused disaster, including instances involving searches for downed aircraft when ground personnel are used. Nothing in this section shall affect appropriate activity by the department of transportation under chapter 47.68 RCW.

(37) "Telecommunications provider" means a telecommunications company as defined in RCW 80.04.010, a radio communications service company as defined in RCW 38.52.010, a commercial mobile radio service provider as defined in 47 C.F.R. Sec. 20.3, providers of interconnected voice over internet protocol service as defined in RCW 38.52.010, and providers of data services.

(38) "Washington state patrol public safety answering points" means those designated as primary or secondary public safety answering points by the counties in which they provide service. [2022 c 203 § 2. Prior: 2019 c 471 § 2; 2019 c 207 § 1; 2017 c 312 § 3; prior: 2015 c 61 § 1; 2007 c 292 § 1; 2002 c 341 § 2; 1997 c 49 § 1; 1995 c 391 § 2; prior: 1993 c 251 § 5; 1993 c 206 § 1; 1986 c 266 § 23; 1984 c 38 § 2; 1979 ex.s. c 268 § 1; 1975 1st ex.s. c 113 § 1; 1974 ex.s. c 171 § 4; 1967 c 203 § 1; 1953 c 223 § 2; 1951 c 178 § 3.]

**Modernization of statewide 911 emergency communications system—**

**2022 c 203:** "The ongoing modernization of the statewide 911 emergency communications system is essential to public safety. Implementing new technologies with the modernization to next generation 911 requires clarifying changes to update requirements and definitions currently in statute." [2022 c 203 § 1.]

**Finding—Intent—2019 c 471:** "The legislature finds that the ability of government to fulfill its constitutional and statutory responsibilities by continuing to conduct essential functions and services during the periods of significant disruption that follow catastrophic incidents requires both continuity of operations planning by individual agencies and continuity of government planning by state and local government. It is the intent of the legislature that all

levels and branches of government, both state and local, take appropriate action to cooperatively conduct appropriate planning and preparation for continuity of operations and government to assist in fulfilling these responsibilities." [2019 c 471 § 1.]

**Finding—Intent—2017 c 312:** See note following RCW 38.52.580.

**Severability—Effective date—2002 c 341:** See notes following RCW 38.52.501.

**Effective date—1995 c 391:** See note following RCW 38.52.005.

**Finding—Intent—1993 c 251:** See note following RCW 38.52.430.

**Severability—1986 c 266:** See note following RCW 38.52.005.

**RCW 38.52.020 Declaration of policy and purpose.** (1) Because of the existing and increasing possibility of the occurrence of disasters of unprecedented size and destructiveness as defined in \*RCW 38.52.010(5), and in order to insure that preparations of this state will be adequate to deal with such disasters, to insure the administration of state and federal programs providing disaster relief to individuals, and further to insure adequate support for search and rescue operations, and generally to protect the public peace, health, and safety, and to preserve the lives and property of the people of the state, it is hereby found and declared to be necessary:

(a) To provide for emergency management by the state, and to authorize the creation of local organizations for emergency management in the political subdivisions of the state;

(b) To confer upon the governor and upon the executive heads of the political subdivisions of the state the emergency powers provided herein;

(c) To provide for the rendering of mutual aid among the political subdivisions of the state and with other states and to cooperate with the federal government with respect to the carrying out of emergency management functions;

(d) To provide a means of compensating emergency management workers who may suffer any injury, as herein defined, or death; who suffer economic harm including personal property damage or loss; or who incur expenses for transportation, telephone or other methods of communication, and the use of personal supplies as a result of participation in emergency management activities;

(e) To provide programs, with intergovernmental cooperation, to educate and train the public to be prepared for emergencies; and

(f) To provide for the prioritization, development, and exercise of continuity of operations plans by the state.

(2) It is further declared to be the purpose of this chapter and the policy of the state that all emergency management functions of this state and its political subdivisions be coordinated to the maximum extent with the comparable functions of the federal government including its various departments and agencies of other states and localities, and of private agencies of every type, to the end that the most effective preparation and use may be made of the nation's manpower, resources, and facilities for dealing with any disaster that may occur. [2015 c 61 § 2; 1986 c 266 § 24; 1984 c 38 § 3; 1979 ex.s.

c 268 § 2; 1975 1st ex.s. c 113 § 2; 1974 ex.s. c 171 § 5; 1967 c 203 § 2; 1953 c 223 § 1; 1951 c 178 § 2.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 38.52.010 was amended by 2017 c 312 § 3, changing subsection (5) to subsection (6). RCW 38.52.010 was subsequently amended by 2019 c 207 § 1 and by 2019 c 471 § 2, changing subsection (6) to subsection (9). RCW 38.52.010 was amended by 2022 c 203 § 2, changing subsection (9) to subsection (13).

**Severability—1986 c 266:** See note following RCW 38.52.005.

**RCW 38.52.030 Director—Comprehensive emergency management plan—Statewide 911 emergency communications network—State coordinator of search and rescue operations—State program for emergency assistance—State coordinator for radioactive and hazardous waste emergency response programs—Interagency coordination and prioritization of continuity of operations planning—Catastrophic incidents, program to provide information and education.** (1) The director may employ such personnel and may make such expenditures within the appropriation therefor, or from other funds made available for purposes of emergency management, as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter.

(2) The director, subject to the direction and control of the governor, shall be responsible to the governor for carrying out the program for emergency management of this state. The director shall coordinate the activities of all organizations for emergency management within the state, and shall maintain liaison with and cooperate with emergency management agencies and organizations of other states and of the federal government, and shall have such additional authority, duties, and responsibilities authorized by this chapter, as may be prescribed by the governor.

(3) The director shall develop and maintain a comprehensive, all-hazard emergency plan for the state which shall include an analysis of the natural, technological, or human-caused hazards which could affect the state of Washington, and shall include the procedures to be used during emergencies for coordinating local resources, as necessary, and the resources of all state agencies, departments, commissions, and boards. The comprehensive emergency management plan shall direct the department in times of state emergency to administer and manage the state's emergency operations center. This will include representation from all appropriate state agencies and be available as a single point of contact for the authorizing of state resources or actions, including emergency permits. The comprehensive emergency management plan must specify the use of the incident command system for multiagency/multijurisdiction operations. The comprehensive, all-hazard emergency plan authorized under this subsection may not include preparation for emergency evacuation or relocation of residents in anticipation of nuclear attack. This plan shall be known as the comprehensive emergency management plan.

(4) In accordance with the comprehensive emergency management plans and the programs for the emergency management of this state, the director shall procure supplies and equipment, institute training programs and public information programs, and shall take all other preparatory steps, including the partial or full mobilization of emergency management organizations in advance of actual disaster, to



insure the furnishing of adequately trained and equipped forces of emergency management personnel in time of need.

(5) The director shall make such studies and surveys of the industries, resources, and facilities in this state as may be necessary to ascertain the capabilities of the state for emergency management, and shall plan for the most efficient emergency use thereof.

(6) The emergency management council shall advise the director on all aspects of the communications and warning systems and facilities operated or controlled under the provisions of this chapter.

(7) The director, through the state 911 coordinator, shall coordinate and facilitate implementation and operation of a statewide 911 emergency communications network.

(8) The director shall appoint a state coordinator of search and rescue operations to coordinate those state resources, services and facilities (other than those for which the state director of aeronautics is directly responsible) requested by political subdivisions in support of search and rescue operations, and on request to maintain liaison with and coordinate the resources, services, and facilities of political subdivisions when more than one political subdivision is engaged in joint search and rescue operations.

(9) The director, subject to the direction and control of the governor, shall prepare and administer a state program for emergency assistance to individuals within the state who are victims of a natural, technological, or human-caused disaster, as defined by RCW 38.52.010(13). Such program may be integrated into and coordinated with disaster assistance plans and programs of the federal government which provide to the state, or through the state to any political subdivision thereof, services, equipment, supplies, materials, or funds by way of gift, grant, or loan for purposes of assistance to individuals affected by a disaster. Further, such program may include, but shall not be limited to, grants, loans, or gifts of services, equipment, supplies, materials, or funds of the state, or any political subdivision thereof, to individuals who, as a result of a disaster, are in need of assistance and who meet standards of eligibility for disaster assistance established by the department of social and health services: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That nothing herein shall be construed in any manner inconsistent with the provisions of Article VIII, section 5 or section 7 of the Washington state Constitution.

(10) The director shall appoint a state coordinator for radioactive and hazardous waste emergency response programs. The coordinator shall consult with the state radiation control officer in matters relating to radioactive materials. The duties of the state coordinator for radioactive and hazardous waste emergency response programs shall include:

(a) Assessing the current needs and capabilities of state and local radioactive and hazardous waste emergency response teams on an ongoing basis;

(b) Coordinating training programs for state and local officials for the purpose of updating skills relating to emergency mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery;

(c) Utilizing appropriate training programs such as those offered by the federal emergency management agency, the department of transportation and the environmental protection agency; and

(d) Undertaking other duties in this area that are deemed appropriate by the director.

(11) The director is responsible to the governor to lead the development and management of a program for interagency coordination and prioritization of continuity of operations planning by state agencies. Each state agency is responsible for developing an organizational continuity of operations plan that is updated and exercised annually in compliance with the program for interagency coordination of continuity of operations planning.

(12) The director shall maintain a copy of the continuity of operations plan for election operations for each county that has a plan available.

(13) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the director is responsible to the governor to lead the development and management of a program to provide information and education to state and local government officials regarding catastrophic incidents and continuity of government planning to assist with statewide development of continuity of government plans by all levels and branches of state and local government that address how essential government functions and services will continue to be provided following a catastrophic incident. [2022 c 203 § 3; 2019 c 471 § 3; 2018 c 26 § 2; 2015 c 61 § 3; 1997 c 49 § 2; 1995 c 269 § 1201. Prior: 1991 c 322 § 20; 1991 c 54 § 2; 1986 c 266 § 25; 1984 c 38 § 4; 1975 1st ex.s. c 113 § 3; 1973 1st ex.s. c 154 § 58; 1967 c 203 § 3; 1951 c 178 § 4.]

**Modernization of statewide 911 emergency communications system—  
2022 c 203:** See note following RCW 38.52.010.

**Finding—Intent—2019 c 471:** See note following RCW 38.52.010.

**Finding—2018 c 26:** "The legislature finds that, in 2017, the federal department of homeland security designated election infrastructure as part of our nation's critical infrastructure. Elections play a vital role in our democracy, and it is important that election administrators are able to continue election operations during emergencies. Given the federal designation of election infrastructure as critical infrastructure, counties should maintain a continuity of operations plan for the continuity of elections and the full execution of essential election operations in emergencies." [2018 c 26 § 1.]

**Effective date—Part headings not law—Severability—1995 c 269:** See notes following RCW 18.16.050.

**Findings—Intent—1991 c 322:** See note following RCW 86.12.200.

**Referral to electorate—1991 c 54:** "Sections 1 through 6 and 9 through 16 of this act shall be submitted to the people for their adoption and ratification, or rejection, at the next succeeding general election to be held in this state, in accordance with Article II, section 1 of the state Constitution, as amended, and the laws adopted to facilitate the operation thereof. The ballot title for this act shall be: "Shall enhanced 911 emergency telephone dialing be provided throughout the state and be funded by a tax on telephone lines?" [1991 c 54 § 17.]

**Reviser's note:** "This act," chapter 54, Laws of 1991, was adopted and ratified by the people at the November 5, 1991, general election (Referendum Bill No. 42).

**Severability—1986 c 266:** See note following RCW 38.52.005.

**Severability—1973 1st ex.s. c 154:** See note following RCW 2.12.030.

*Hazardous and radioactive wastes: Chapters 70.136, 70A.300, 70A.388, 70A.390 RCW.*

**RCW 38.52.037 Comprehensive state mine rescue plan—Submittal to legislature.** The department shall consult with appropriate local, state, federal, and private sector officials in developing a comprehensive state mine rescue plan. The plan shall identify mine rescue resources, set forth a framework for a coordinated response to mine rescue emergencies, identify shortfalls, and recommend solutions.

The draft of the comprehensive state mine rescue plan and a schedule for submittal of the final plan shall be submitted to the legislature on January 13, 1986. [1986 c 266 § 26; 1985 c 459 § 6.]

**Severability—1986 c 266:** See note following RCW 38.52.005.

**Severability—1985 c 459:** See note following RCW 79.14.510.

**RCW 38.52.040 Emergency management council—Members—Ad hoc committees—Rules review—Function as state emergency response commission—Cybersecurity advisory committee—Intrastate mutual aid committee.** (1) There is hereby created the emergency management council (hereinafter called the council), to consist of not more than 21 members who shall be appointed by the adjutant general. The membership of the council shall include, but not be limited to, representatives of city and county governments, two representatives of federally recognized tribes, sheriffs and police chiefs, county coroners and medical examiners, the Washington state patrol, the military department, the department of ecology, state and local fire chiefs, seismic safety experts, state and local emergency management directors, search and rescue volunteers, medical professions who have expertise in emergency medical care, building officials, private industry, and the office of the superintendent of public instruction. The representatives of private industry shall include persons knowledgeable in emergency and hazardous materials management. The councilmembers shall elect a chair from within the council membership. The members of the council shall serve without compensation, but may be reimbursed for their travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060 as now existing or hereafter amended.

(2) The emergency management council shall advise the governor and the director on all matters pertaining to state and local emergency management. The council may appoint such ad hoc committees, subcommittees, and working groups as are required to develop specific recommendations for the improvement of emergency management practices,

standards, policies, or procedures. The council shall ensure that the governor receives an annual assessment of statewide emergency preparedness including, but not limited to, specific progress on hazard mitigation and reduction efforts, implementation of seismic safety improvements, reduction of flood hazards, mitigation of cybersecurity risks to critical infrastructure, and coordination of hazardous materials planning and response activities. The council shall review administrative rules governing state and local emergency management practices and recommend necessary revisions to the director.

(3) The council or a council subcommittee shall serve and periodically convene in special session as the state emergency response commission required by the emergency planning and community right-to-know act (42 U.S.C. Sec. 11001 et seq.). The state emergency response commission shall conduct those activities specified in federal statutes and regulations and state administrative rules governing the coordination of hazardous materials policy including, but not limited to, review of local emergency planning committee emergency response plans for compliance with the planning requirements in the emergency planning and community right-to-know act (42 U.S.C. Sec. 11001 et seq.). Committees shall annually review their plans to address changed conditions, and submit their plans to the state emergency response commission for review when updated, but not less than at least once every five years. The department may employ staff to assist local emergency planning committees in the development and annual review of these emergency response plans, with an initial focus on the highest risk communities through which trains that transport oil in bulk travel. By March 1, 2018, the department shall report to the governor and legislature on progress towards compliance with planning requirements. The report must also provide budget and policy recommendations for continued support of local emergency planning.

(4) (a) The cybersecurity advisory committee is created and is a subcommittee of the emergency management council. The purpose of the cybersecurity advisory committee is to provide advice and recommendations that strengthen cybersecurity in both industry and public sectors across all critical infrastructure sectors.

(b) The cybersecurity advisory committee shall bring together organizations with expertise and responsibility for cybersecurity and incident response among local government, tribes, state agencies, institutions of higher education, the technology sector, and first responders with the goal of providing recommendations on building and sustaining the state's capability to identify and mitigate cybersecurity risk and to respond to and recover from cybersecurity-related incidents, including but not limited to ransomware incidents. With respect to critical infrastructure, the cybersecurity advisory committee shall work with relevant federal agencies, state agencies, institutions of higher education as defined in chapter 28B.92 RCW, industry experts, and technical specialists to:

(i) Identify which local, tribal, and industry infrastructure sectors are at the greatest risk of cyberattacks and need the most enhanced cybersecurity measures;

(ii) Use federal guidance to analyze categories of critical infrastructure in the state that could reasonably result in catastrophic consequences if unauthorized cyber access to the infrastructure occurred;

(iii) Recommend cyber incident response exercises that relate to risk and risk mitigation in the water, transportation, communications,

health care, elections, agriculture, energy, and higher education sectors, or other sectors as the cybersecurity advisory committee deems appropriate, in consultation with appropriate state agencies including, but not limited to, the energy resilience and emergency management office at the department of commerce and the secretary of state's office; and

(iv) Examine the inconsistencies between state and federal law regarding cybersecurity.

(c) In fulfilling its duties under this section, the military department and the cybersecurity advisory committee shall collaborate with the consolidated technology services agency and the technology services board security subcommittee created in RCW 43.105.291.

(d) In order to protect sensitive security topics and information, the cybersecurity advisory committee must follow 6 C.F.R. Part 29, as it existed on July 23, 2023, procedures for handling critical infrastructure information. The reports produced, and information compiled, pursuant to this subsection are confidential and may not be disclosed under chapter 42.56 RCW.

(e) The cybersecurity advisory committee must contribute, as appropriate, to the emergency management council annual report and must meet quarterly. The cybersecurity advisory committee shall hold a joint meeting once a year with the technology services board security subcommittee created in RCW 43.105.291.

(f) For the purpose of this subsection, "ransomware" has the same meaning as in RCW 43.105.020.

(5) (a) The intrastate mutual aid committee is created and is a subcommittee of the emergency management council. The intrastate mutual aid committee consists of not more than five members who must be appointed by the council chair from council membership. The chair of the intrastate mutual aid committee is the military department representative appointed as a member of the council. Meetings of the intrastate mutual aid committee must be held at least annually.

(b) In support of the intrastate mutual aid system established in chapter 38.56 RCW, the intrastate mutual aid committee shall develop and update guidelines and procedures to facilitate implementation of the intrastate mutual aid system by member jurisdictions, including but not limited to the following: Projected or anticipated costs; checklists and forms for requesting and providing assistance; recordkeeping; reimbursement procedures; and other implementation issues. These guidelines and procedures are not subject to the rule-making requirements of chapter 34.05 RCW.

(6) On emergency management issues that involve early learning, kindergarten through twelfth grade, or higher education, the emergency management council must consult with representatives from the following organizations: The department of children, youth, and families; the office of the superintendent of public instruction; the state board for community and technical colleges; and an association of public baccalaureate degree-granting institutions. [2023 c 124 § 2. Prior: 2021 c 233 § 1; 2021 c 122 § 4; 2019 c 333 § 9; 2015 c 274 § 17; prior: 2011 1st sp.s. c 21 § 27; 2011 c 336 § 789; 2011 c 79 § 9; 1995 c 269 § 1202; 1988 c 81 § 18; 1984 c 38 § 5; 1979 ex.s. c 57 § 8; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 34 § 82; 1974 ex.s. c 171 § 6; 1951 c 178 § 5.]

**Finding—Intent—2021 c 122:** See note following RCW 2.32.050.

**Findings—Intent—2019 c 333:** See note following RCW 28A.300.630.

**Intent—2019 c 333:** See note following RCW 28A.320.124.

**Effective date—2015 c 274:** See note following RCW 90.56.005.

**Effective date—2011 1st sp.s. c 21:** See note following RCW 72.23.025.

**Effective date—Part headings not law—Severability—1995 c 269:** See notes following RCW 18.16.050.

**Effective date—Severability—1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 34:** See notes following RCW 2.08.115.

**RCW 38.52.050 Governor's general powers and duties.** (1) The governor, through the director, shall have general supervision and control of the emergency management functions in the department, and shall be responsible for the carrying out of the provisions of this chapter, and in the event of disaster beyond local control, may assume direct operational control over all or any part of the emergency management functions within this state.

(2) In performing his or her duties under this chapter, the governor is authorized to cooperate with the federal government, with other states, and with private agencies in all matters pertaining to the emergency management of this state and of the nation.

(3) In performing his or her duties under this chapter and to effect its policy and purpose, the governor is further authorized and empowered:

(a) To make, amend, and rescind the necessary orders, rules, and regulations to carry out the provisions of this chapter within the limits of the authority conferred upon him [or her] herein, with due consideration of the plans of the federal government;

(b) On behalf of this state, to enter into mutual aid arrangements with other states and territories, or provinces of the Dominion of Canada and to coordinate mutual aid interlocal agreements between political subdivisions of this state;

(c) To delegate any administrative authority vested in him [or her] under this chapter, and to provide for the subdelegation of any such authority;

(d) To appoint, with the advice of local authorities, metropolitan or regional area coordinators, or both, when practicable;

(e) To cooperate with the president and the heads of the armed forces, the emergency management agency of the United States, and other appropriate federal officers and agencies, and with the officers and agencies of other states in matters pertaining to the emergency management of the state and nation. [1997 c 49 § 3; 1986 c 266 § 27; 1984 c 38 § 6; 1974 ex.s. c 171 § 7; 1951 c 178 § 6.]

**Severability—1986 c 266:** See note following RCW 38.52.005.

**RCW 38.52.070 Local organizations and joint local organizations authorized—Establishment, operation—Emergency powers, procedures—Communication plans.** (1) Each political subdivision of this state is hereby authorized and directed to establish a local organization or to be a member of a joint local organization for emergency management in

accordance with the state comprehensive emergency management plan and program: PROVIDED, That a political subdivision proposing such establishment shall submit its plan and program for emergency management to the state director and secure his or her recommendations thereon, and verification of consistency with the state comprehensive emergency management plan, in order that the plan of the local organization for emergency management may be coordinated with the plan and program of the state. Local comprehensive emergency management plans must specify the use of the incident command system for multiagency/multijurisdiction operations. No political subdivision may be required to include in its plan provisions for the emergency evacuation or relocation of residents in anticipation of nuclear attack. If the director's recommendations are adverse to the plan as submitted, and, if the local organization does not agree to the director's recommendations for modification to the proposal, the matter shall be referred to the council for final action. The director may authorize two or more political subdivisions to join in the establishment and operation of a joint local organization for emergency management as circumstances may warrant, in which case each political subdivision shall contribute to the cost of emergency management upon such fair and equitable basis as may be determined upon by the executive heads of the constituent subdivisions. If in any case the executive heads cannot agree upon the proper division of cost the matter shall be referred to the council for arbitration and its decision shall be final. When two or more political subdivisions join in the establishment and operation of a joint local organization for emergency management each shall pay its share of the cost into a special pooled fund to be administered by the treasurer of the most populous subdivision, which fund shall be known as the . . . . . emergency management fund. Each local organization or joint local organization for emergency management shall have a director who shall be appointed by the executive head of the political subdivision, and who shall have direct responsibility for the organization, administration, and operation of such local organization for emergency management, subject to the direction and control of such executive officer or officers. In the case of a joint local organization for emergency management, the director shall be appointed by the joint action of the executive heads of the constituent political subdivisions. Each local organization or joint local organization for emergency management shall perform emergency management functions within the territorial limits of the political subdivision within which it is organized, and, in addition, shall conduct such functions outside of such territorial limits as may be required pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.

(2) In carrying out the provisions of this chapter each political subdivision, in which any disaster as described in RCW 38.52.020 occurs, shall have the power to enter into contracts and incur obligations necessary to combat such disaster, protecting the health and safety of persons and property, and providing emergency assistance to the victims of such disaster. Each political subdivision is authorized to exercise the powers vested under this section in the light of the exigencies of an extreme emergency situation without regard to time-consuming procedures and formalities prescribed by law (excepting mandatory constitutional requirements), including, but not limited to, budget law limitations, requirements of competitive bidding and publication of notices, provisions pertaining to the performance of public work, entering into contracts, the incurring of

obligations, the employment of temporary workers, the rental of equipment, the purchase of supplies and materials, the levying of taxes, and the appropriation and expenditures of public funds.

(3) (a) Each local organization or joint local organization for emergency management that produces a local comprehensive emergency management plan must include a communication plan for notifying significant population segments of life safety information during an emergency. Local organizations and joint local organizations are encouraged to consult with affected community organizations in the development of the communication plans.

(i) In developing communication plans, local organizations and joint organizations should consider, as part of their determination of the extent of the obligation to provide emergency notification to significant population segments, the following factors: The number or proportion of the limited English proficiency persons eligible to be served or likely to be encountered; the frequency with which limited English proficiency individuals come in contact with the emergency notification; the nature and importance of the emergency notification, service, or program to people's lives; and the resources available to the political subdivision to provide emergency notifications.

(ii) "Significant population segment" means, for the purposes of this subsection (3), each limited English proficiency language group that constitutes five percent or one thousand residents, whichever is less, of the population of persons eligible to be served or likely to be affected within a city, town, or county. The office of financial management forecasting division's limited English proficiency population estimates are the demographic data set for determining eligible limited English proficiency language groups.

(b) Local organizations and joint local organizations must submit the plans produced under (a) of this subsection to the Washington military department emergency management division, and must implement those plans. An initial communication plan must be submitted with the local organization or joint local organization's next local emergency management plan update following July 23, 2017, and subsequent plans must be reviewed in accordance with the director's schedule.

(4) When conducting emergency or disaster after-action reviews, local organizations and joint local organizations must evaluate the effectiveness of communication of life safety information and must inform the emergency management division of the Washington military department of technological challenges which limited communications efforts, along with identifying recommendations and resources needed to address those challenges. [2017 c 312 § 4; 1997 c 49 § 4; 1986 c 266 § 28; 1984 c 38 § 7; 1974 ex.s. c 171 § 9; 1951 c 178 § 8.]

**Finding—Intent—2017 c 312:** See note following RCW 38.52.580.

**Severability—1986 c 266:** See note following RCW 38.52.005.

**RCW 38.52.073 Communication plan status report—Life safety information communication report.** (1) Beginning December 1, 2019, the Washington military department emergency management division must submit a report every five years to the relevant committees of the legislature containing the status of communication plans produced under RCW 38.52.070 (3) (a).



(2) The emergency management division of the Washington military department must provide the legislature an annual report on instances of emergency or disaster in which communication of life safety information was technologically infeasible, as reported to the department pursuant to RCW 38.52.070(4). When potential technology solutions exist, the report must include recommendations and an estimate of resources required to remedy the infeasibility. The first annual report is due December 1, 2019. [2017 c 312 § 5.]

**Finding—Intent—2017 c 312:** See note following RCW 38.52.580.

**RCW 38.52.080 Outside aid—Rights and liabilities—Claims.** (1)

Whenever the employees of any political subdivision are rendering outside aid pursuant to the authority contained in RCW 38.52.070 such employees shall have the same powers, duties, rights, privileges, and immunities as if they were performing their duties in the political subdivisions in which they are normally employed.

(2) The political subdivision in which any equipment is used pursuant to this section shall be liable for any loss or damage thereto and shall pay any expense incurred in the operation and maintenance thereof. No claim for such loss, damage, or expense shall be allowed unless, within sixty days after the same is sustained or incurred, an itemized notice of such claim under oath is served by mail or otherwise upon the executive head of such political subdivision where the equipment was used. The term "employee" as used in this section shall mean, and the provisions of this section shall apply with equal effect to, volunteer auxiliary employees, and emergency workers.

(3) The foregoing rights, privileges, and obligations shall also apply in the event such aid is rendered outside the state, provided that payment or reimbursement in such case shall or may be made by the state or political subdivision receiving such aid pursuant to a reciprocal mutual aid agreement or compact with such state or by the federal government. [1984 c 38 § 8; 1974 ex.s. c 171 § 10; 1951 c 178 § 9.]

**RCW 38.52.091 Mutual aid and interlocal agreements—**

**Requirements.** (1) The director of each local organization for emergency management may, in collaboration with other public and private agencies within this state, develop or cause to be developed mutual aid arrangements for reciprocal emergency management aid and assistance in case of disaster too great to be dealt with unassisted. Such arrangements must be consistent with the state emergency management plan and program, and in time of emergency it is the duty of each local organization for emergency management to render assistance in accordance with the provisions of such mutual aid arrangements. The adjutant general shall maintain and distribute a mutual aid and interlocal agreement handbook.

(2) The adjutant general and the director of each local organization for emergency management may, subject to the approval of the governor, enter into mutual aid arrangements with emergency management agencies or organizations in other states for reciprocal emergency management aid and assistance in case of disaster too great

to be dealt with unassisted. All such arrangements must contain the language and provisions in subsection (3) of this section.

(3) Mutual aid and interlocal agreements must include the following:

#### Purpose

The purpose must state the reason the mutual aid or interlocal agreement or compact is coordinated, the parties to the agreement or compact, and the assistance to be provided.

#### Authorization

Article I, section 10 of the Constitution of the United States permits a state to enter into an agreement or compact with another state, subject to the consent of Congress. Congress, through enactment of Title 50 U.S.C. Sections 2281(g), 2283 and the Executive Department, by issuance of Executive Orders No. 10186 of December 1, 1950, encourages the states to enter into emergency, disaster and civil defense mutual aid agreements or pacts.

#### Implementation

The conditions that guide the agreement or compacts may include, but are not limited to:

(a) A statement of which authority or authorities are authorized to request and receive assistance and the conditions that must exist for the request or receipt of assistance.

(b) A statement of how the requests for assistance may be made, what documentation of the request is required, the specifics of any details included in the request, and the required approval for the request.

(c) A statement of the direction and control relationship between the personnel and equipment provided by the jurisdiction to the requester and the requirements of the requester to coordinate the activities of the jurisdiction providing the assets.

(d) A statement of the circumstances by which the assisting jurisdiction may withdraw support from the requester and the method by which this is to be communicated.

#### General Fiscal Provisions

The terms of reimbursement must be stated defining the relationship between the requesting jurisdiction and the aiding jurisdiction, when reimbursement will be made, and details of the claim for reimbursement. The provisions may include statements that discuss but are not limited to:

(a) A statement of what costs are incurred by the requesting jurisdiction.

(b) A statement of what costs and compensation benefits are made to individuals from the aiding jurisdiction by the requesting jurisdiction.

#### Privileges and Immunities

The conditions and immunities that are enjoyed by the individuals from the aiding jurisdiction to the requesting jurisdiction must be stated. These provisions may include but are not limited to:

(a) A statement of the privileges and immunities from liability and the law an employee of a supporting jurisdiction enjoys while supporting the requesting jurisdiction.

(b) A statement of the privileges and immunities from liability and the law a volunteer from a supporting jurisdiction enjoys while supporting the requesting jurisdiction.

(c) A statement on the use of the national guard between the requesting and supporting jurisdictions.

(d) A hold harmless agreement between the signatory jurisdictions.

(e) The precedence this agreement takes with existing agreements.

(f) A time line by which information required by the agreement is exchanged and updated annually.

(g) The time in which the agreement becomes effective.

(h) The time and conditions when a signatory may withdraw and render the agreement ineffective. [1997 c 195 § 1.]

**RCW 38.52.100 Appropriations—Acceptance of funds, services, etc.** (1) Each political subdivision shall have the power to make appropriations in the manner provided by law for making appropriations for the ordinary expenses of such political subdivision for the payment of expenses of its local organization for emergency management.

(2) Whenever the federal government or any agency or officer thereof shall offer to the state, or through the state to any political subdivision thereof, services, equipment, supplies, materials, or funds by way of gift, grant, or loan, for purposes of emergency management, the state, acting through the governor, or such political subdivision, acting with the consent of the governor and through its executive head, may accept such offer and upon such acceptance the governor of the state or executive head of such political subdivision may authorize any officer of the state or of the political subdivision, as the case may be, to receive such services, equipment, supplies, materials, or funds on behalf of the state or such political subdivision, and subject to the terms of the offer and the rules and regulations, if any, of the agency making the offer.

(3) Whenever any person, firm, or corporation shall offer to the state or to any political subdivision thereof, services, equipment, supplies, materials, or funds by way of gift, grant, or loan, for the purposes of emergency management, the state, acting through the governor, or such political subdivision, acting through its executive head, may accept such offer and upon such acceptance the governor of the state or executive head of such political subdivision may authorize any officer of the state or of the political subdivision, as the case may be, to receive such services, equipment, supplies, materials, or funds on behalf of the state or such political subdivision, and subject to the terms of the offer. [1984 c 38 § 10; 1974 ex.s. c 171 § 12; 1951 c 178 § 12.]

**RCW 38.52.105 Disaster response account.** The disaster response account is created in the state treasury. Moneys may be placed in the account from legislative appropriations and transfers, federal appropriations, or any other lawful source. Moneys in the account may be spent only after appropriation. Expenditures from the account may be used only for support of state agency and local government disaster response and recovery efforts, including response by state and local government and federally recognized tribes to the novel coronavirus

pursuant to the gubernatorial declaration of emergency of February 29, 2020, and to reimburse the workers' compensation funds and self-insured employers under RCW 51.16.220. Expenditures from the disaster response account may be used for military department operations and to support wildland fire suppression preparedness, prevention, and restoration activities by state agencies and local governments. The legislature may direct the treasurer to make transfers of moneys in the disaster response account to the state general fund. [2022 c 157 § 10; 2021 c 334 § 963; 2020 c 7 § 6; 2019 c 415 § 956; 2017 3rd sp.s. c 1 § 962; 2016 sp.s. c 36 § 918; 2010 2nd sp.s. c 1 § 901; 2010 1st sp.s. c 37 § 919; 2005 c 422 § 2; 2002 c 371 § 903; 1997 c 251 § 1.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—Effective date—2021 c 334:** See notes following RCW 43.79.555.

**Conflict with federal requirements—Effective date—2020 c 7:** See notes following RCW 50.16.100.

**Effective date—2019 c 415:** See note following RCW 28B.20.476.

**Effective date—2017 3rd sp.s. c 1:** See note following RCW 43.41.455.

**Effective date—2016 sp.s. c 36:** See note following RCW 18.20.430.

**Effective date—2010 2nd sp.s. c 1:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [December 11, 2010]." [2010 2nd sp.s. c 1 § 909.]

**Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 37:** See note following RCW 13.06.050.

**Rules—Effective date—2005 c 422:** See notes following RCW 51.16.220.

**Severability—Effective date—2002 c 371:** See notes following RCW 9.46.100.

**Effective date—1997 c 251:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [May 5, 1997]." [1997 c 251 § 2.]

**RCW 38.52.107 State hazard mitigation revolving loan account.**

(1) The state hazard mitigation revolving loan account is created in the state treasury. The purpose of the account is to allow the state to use any federal funds that become available to states from congress to fund a state revolving fund loan program as part of the safeguarding tomorrow through ongoing risk mitigation act. Moneys in the account may be spent only after appropriation. Moneys in the account may only be used, consistent with federal law, to administer

the safeguarding tomorrow through ongoing risk mitigation act program, including loans to local and tribal governments for:

(a) Carrying out projects designed to mitigate the impact of natural hazards;

(b) Zoning and land use planning changes focused on low-impact development and community resiliency;

(c) Establishing and carrying out building code enforcement for the protection of the health, safety, and general welfare of the building's users against disasters and natural hazards; and

(d) Providing technical assistance.

(2) Moneys may also be used for administration and oversight of the safeguarding tomorrow through ongoing risk mitigation act program.

(3) Moneys from federal receipts from the safeguarding tomorrow through ongoing risk mitigation act grant, appropriations from the state legislature, transfers from other state funds or accounts, all repayments of moneys borrowed from the account, all interest payments made by borrowers from the account or otherwise earned on the account, or any other lawful source may be deposited into the account. All interest earned on moneys deposited in the account, including repayments, shall remain in the account and may be used for any eligible purpose.

(4) The department may adopt such rules as are necessary under RCW 38.52.050 to administer the account. [2023 c 435 § 6.]

**Effective date—2023 c 435:** See note following RCW 43.79.570.

**RCW 38.52.110 Use of existing services and facilities—Impressment of citizenry—First informer broadcasters.** (1) In carrying out the provisions of this chapter, the governor and the executive heads of the political subdivisions of the state are directed to utilize the services, equipment, supplies, and facilities of existing departments, offices, and agencies of the state, political subdivisions, and all other municipal corporations thereof including but not limited to districts and quasi municipal corporations organized under the laws of the state of Washington to the maximum extent practicable, and the officers and personnel of all such departments, offices, and agencies are directed to cooperate with and extend such services and facilities to the governor and to the emergency management organizations of the state upon request notwithstanding any other provision of law.

(2) The governor, the chief executive of counties, cities and towns and the emergency management directors of local political subdivisions appointed in accordance with this chapter, in the event of a disaster, after proclamation by the governor of the existence of such disaster, shall have the power to command the service and equipment of as many citizens as considered necessary in the light of the disaster proclaimed: PROVIDED, That citizens so commandeered shall be entitled during the period of such service to all privileges, benefits and immunities as are provided by this chapter and federal and state emergency management regulations for registered emergency workers.

(3) A vehicle, fuel, food, water, or other essential materials brought into an area affected by an emergency or disaster by a first informer broadcaster may not be seized or confiscated, except as otherwise authorized by law. [2019 c 207 § 2; 1984 c 38 § 11; 1974

ex.s. c 171 § 13; 1971 ex.s. c 8 § 1; 1955 c 210 § 1; 1951 c 178 § 13.]

**RCW 38.52.115 Liability of federal, state, and local agencies, and employees—Facilitation of access of first informer broadcaster.** Federal, state, and local agencies, and their employees, are not liable for any action, or failure to act, when facilitating access of a first informer broadcaster to an area affected by an emergency or disaster. [2019 c 207 § 3.]

**RCW 38.52.120 Political activity prohibited.** No organization for emergency management established under the authority of this chapter shall participate in any form of political activity, nor shall it be employed directly or indirectly for political purposes. [1984 c 38 § 12; 1974 ex.s. c 171 § 14; 1951 c 178 § 14.]

**RCW 38.52.140 Status of civil service employee preserved.** Any civil service employee of the state of Washington or of any political subdivision thereof while on leave of absence and on duty with any emergency management agency authorized under the provisions of this chapter shall be preserved in his or her civil service status as to seniority and retirement rights so long as he or she regularly continues to make the usual contributions incident to the retention of such beneficial rights as if he or she were not on leave of absence. [2011 c 336 § 790; 1984 c 38 § 13; 1974 ex.s. c 171 § 16; 1951 c 178 § 16.]

**RCW 38.52.150 Orders, rules, regulations—Enforcement—Availability—Penalty.** (1) It shall be the duty of every organization for emergency management established pursuant to this chapter and of the officers thereof to execute and enforce such orders, rules, and regulations as may be made by the governor under authority of this chapter. Each such organization shall have available for inspection at its office all orders, rules, and regulations made by the governor, or under his or her authority.

(2) (a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, every violation of any rule, regulation, or order issued under the authority of this chapter is a misdemeanor.

(b) A second offense hereunder the same is a gross misdemeanor. [2003 c 53 § 211; 1984 c 38 § 14; 1974 ex.s. c 171 § 17; 1951 c 178 § 18.]

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

**RCW 38.52.160 Matching funds from political subdivision may be required.** The emergency management agency is hereby authorized to require of any political subdivision to which funds are allocated under this chapter for any project, use or activity that such subdivision shall provide matching funds in equal amounts with respect

to such project, use or activity. [1984 c 38 § 15; 1974 ex.s. c 171 § 18; 1951 c 178 § 19.]

**RCW 38.52.170 Plan for federal area.** Whenever the director finds that it will be in the interest of the emergency management of this state or of the United States, the director may, with the approval of the governor, agree with the federal government, or any agency thereof carrying on activities within this state, upon a plan of emergency management applicable to a federally owned area, which plan may or may not conform to all of the other provisions of this chapter with the view to integrating federally owned areas into the comprehensive plan and program of the emergency management of this state. Such plan may confer upon persons carrying out such plan any or all of the rights, powers, privileges and immunities granted employees or representatives of the state and/or its political subdivisions by this chapter. The plan of emergency management authorized under this section may not include preparation for emergency evacuation or relocation of residents in anticipation of nuclear attack. [1986 c 266 § 30; 1984 c 38 § 16; 1974 ex.s. c 171 § 19; 1951 c 178 § 20.]

**Severability—1986 c 266:** See note following RCW 38.52.005.

**RCW 38.52.180 Liability for property damage, bodily injury, death—Immunity—Assumption by state—Indemnification—Immunity from liability for covered volunteers.** (1) There shall be no liability on the part of anyone including any person, partnership, corporation, the state of Washington or any political subdivision thereof who owns or maintains any building or premises which have been designated by a local organization for emergency management as a shelter from destructive operations or attacks by enemies of the United States for any injuries sustained by any person while in or upon said building or premises, as a result of the condition of said building or premises or as a result of any act or omission, or in any way arising from the designation of such premises as a shelter, when such person has entered or gone upon or into said building or premises for the purpose of seeking refuge therein during destructive operations or attacks by enemies of the United States or during tests ordered by lawful authority, except for an act of willful negligence by such owner or occupant or his or her servants, agents, or employees.

(2) All legal liability for damage to property or injury or death to persons (except an emergency worker, regularly enrolled and acting as such), caused by acts done or attempted during or while traveling to or from an emergency or disaster, search and rescue, or training or exercise authorized by the department in preparation for an emergency or disaster or search and rescue, under the color of this chapter in a bona fide attempt to comply therewith, except as provided in subsections (3), (4), and (5) of this section regarding covered volunteer emergency workers, shall be the obligation of the state of Washington. Suits may be instituted and maintained against the state for the enforcement of such liability, or for the indemnification of persons appointed and regularly enrolled as emergency workers while actually engaged in emergency management duties, or as members of any agency of the state or political subdivision thereof engaged in emergency management activity, or their dependents, for damage done to

their private property, or for any judgment against them for acts done in good faith in compliance with this chapter: PROVIDED, That the foregoing shall not be construed to result in indemnification in any case of willful misconduct, gross negligence, or bad faith on the part of any agent of emergency management: PROVIDED, That should the United States or any agency thereof, in accordance with any federal statute, rule, or regulation, provide for the payment of damages to property and/or for death or injury as provided for in this section, then and in that event there shall be no liability or obligation whatsoever upon the part of the state of Washington for any such damage, death, or injury for which the United States government assumes liability.

(3) No act or omission by a covered volunteer emergency worker while engaged in a covered activity shall impose any liability for civil damages resulting from such an act or omission upon:

(a) The covered volunteer emergency worker;

(b) The supervisor or supervisors of the covered volunteer emergency worker;

(c) Any facility or their officers or employees;

(d) The employer of the covered volunteer emergency worker;

(e) The owner of the property or vehicle where the act or omission may have occurred during the covered activity;

(f) Any local organization that registered the covered volunteer emergency worker;

(g) The state or any state or local governmental entity; and

(h) Any professional or trade association of covered volunteer emergency workers.

(4) The immunity in subsection (3) of this section applies only when the covered volunteer emergency worker was engaged in a covered activity:

(a) Within the scope of his or her assigned duties;

(b) Under the direction of a local emergency management organization or the department, or a local law enforcement agency for search and rescue; and

(c) The act or omission does not constitute gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct.

(5) For purposes of this section:

(a) "Covered volunteer emergency worker" means an emergency worker as defined in RCW 38.52.010 who (i) is not receiving or expecting compensation as an emergency worker from the state or local government, or (ii) is not a state or local government employee unless on leave without pay status.

(b) "Covered activity" means:

(i) Providing assistance or transportation authorized by the department during an emergency or disaster or search and rescue as defined in RCW 38.52.010, whether such assistance or transportation is provided at the scene of the emergency or disaster or search and rescue, at an alternative care site, at a hospital, or while in route to or from such sites or between sites; or

(ii) Participating in training or exercise authorized by the department in preparation for an emergency or disaster or search and rescue.

(6) Any requirement for a license to practice any professional, mechanical, or other skill shall not apply to any authorized emergency worker who shall, in the course of performing his or her duties as such, practice such professional, mechanical, or other skill during an emergency described in this chapter.



(7) The provisions of this section shall not affect the right of any person to receive benefits to which he or she would otherwise be entitled under this chapter, or under the workers' compensation law, or under any pension or retirement law, nor the right of any such person to receive any benefits or compensation under any act of congress.

(8) Any act or omission by a covered volunteer emergency worker while engaged in a covered activity using an off-road vehicle, nonhighway vehicle, or wheeled all-terrain vehicle does not impose any liability for civil damages resulting from such an act or omission upon the covered volunteer emergency worker or the worker's sponsoring organization. [2017 c 36 § 1; 2016 c 84 § 1; 2011 c 336 § 791; 2007 c 292 § 2; 1987 c 185 § 7; 1984 c 38 § 17; 1974 ex.s. c 171 § 20; 1971 ex.s. c 8 § 2; 1953 c 145 § 1; 1951 c 178 § 11.]

**Intent—Severability—1987 c 185:** See notes following RCW 51.12.130.

**RCW 38.52.190 Compensation for injury or death—Chapter exclusive.** Except as provided in this chapter, an emergency worker and his or her dependents shall have no right to receive compensation from the state, from the agency, from the local organization for emergency management with which he or she is registered, or from the county or city which has empowered the local organization for emergency management to register him or her and direct his or her activities, for an injury or death arising out of and occurring in the course of his or her activities as an emergency worker. [2011 c 336 § 792; 1984 c 38 § 18; 1974 ex.s. c 171 § 21; 1953 c 223 § 3.]

**RCW 38.52.195 Exemption from liability while providing construction, equipment, or work.** Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person, firm, corporation, or other entity acting under the direction or control of the proper authority to provide construction, equipment, or work as provided for in RCW 38.52.110, 38.52.180, 38.52.195, 38.52.205, 38.52.207, 38.52.220, and 38.52.390 while complying with or attempting to comply with RCW 38.52.110, 38.52.180, 38.52.195, 38.52.205, 38.52.207, 38.52.220, and 38.52.390 or any rule or regulation promulgated pursuant to the provisions of RCW 38.52.110, 38.52.180, 38.52.195, 38.52.205, 38.52.207, 38.52.220, and 38.52.390 shall be liable for the death of or any injury to persons or damage to property as a result of any such activity: PROVIDED, That said exemption shall only apply where all of the following conditions occur:

(1) Where, at the time of the incident the worker is performing services as an emergency worker, and is acting within the course of his or her duties as an emergency worker;

(2) Where, at the time of the injury, loss, or damage, the organization for emergency management which the worker is assisting is an approved organization for emergency management;

(3) Where the injury, loss, or damage is proximately caused by his or her service either with or without negligence as an emergency worker;

(4) Where the injury, loss, or damage is not caused by the intoxication of the worker; and

(5) Where the injury, loss, or damage is not due to willful misconduct or gross negligence on the part of a worker. [2011 c 336 § 793; 1984 c 38 § 19; 1974 ex.s. c 171 § 22; 1971 ex.s. c 8 § 7.]

**RCW 38.52.1951 Application of exemption from liability for architects and engineers.** For purposes of the liability of an architect or engineer serving as a volunteer emergency worker, the exemption from liability provided under RCW 38.52.195 extends to all damages, so long as the conditions specified in RCW 38.52.195 (1) through (5) occur. [1993 c 206 § 2.]

**RCW 38.52.198 Emergency care, rescue, assistance, or recovery services in mine rescue or recovery work—Immunity from liability.** No person engaged in mine rescue or recovery work who, in good faith, renders emergency care, rescue, assistance, or recovery services at the scene of any emergency at or in a mine in this state or who employs, sponsors, or represents any person rendering emergency care, rescue, assistance, or recovery services shall be liable for any civil damages as a result of any act or omission by any person in rendering emergency care, rescue, assistance, or recovery service. [1985 c 459 § 9.]

**Severability—1985 c 459:** See note following RCW 79.14.510.

**RCW 38.52.200 Liability for compensation is in lieu of other liability—Exception.** Liability for the compensation provided by this chapter, as limited by the provisions thereof, is in lieu of any other liability whatsoever to an emergency worker or his or her dependents or any other person on the part of the state, the agency, the local organization for emergency management with which the emergency worker is registered, and the county or city which has empowered the local organization for emergency management to register him or her and direct his or her activities, for injury or death arising out of and in the course of his or her activities while on duty as an emergency worker: PROVIDED, That nothing in this chapter shall limit or bar the liability of the state or its political subdivisions engaged in proprietary functions as distinguished from governmental functions that may exist by reason of injury or death sustained by an emergency worker. [2011 c 336 § 794; 1984 c 38 § 20; 1974 ex.s. c 171 § 23; 1953 c 223 § 9.]

**RCW 38.52.205 Claims arising from emergency management related activities—Filing—Contents.** All claims against the state for property damages or indemnification therefor arising from emergency management related activities will be presented to and filed with the director of financial management. Contents of all such claims shall conform to the tort claim filing requirements found in RCW 4.92.100 as now or hereafter amended. [1984 c 38 § 21; 1979 c 151 § 43; 1977 ex.s. c 144 § 6; 1974 ex.s. c 171 § 24; 1971 ex.s. c 8 § 4.]

**RCW 38.52.207 Claims arising from emergency management related activities—Filing—Consideration, adjustment, settlement, etc., by director—Effect.** The director, with the approval of the attorney general, may consider, ascertain, adjust, determine, compromise and settle property loss or damage claims arising out of conduct or circumstances for which the state of Washington would be liable in law for money damages of two thousand dollars or less. The acceptance by the claimant of any such award, compromise, or settlement shall be final and conclusive on the claimant; and upon the state of Washington, unless procured by fraud, and shall constitute a complete release of any claim against the state of Washington. A request for administrative settlement shall not preclude a claimant from filing court action pending administrative determination, or limit the amount recoverable in such a suit, or constitute an admission against interest of either the claimant or the state. [1986 c 266 § 31; 1984 c 38 § 22; 1974 ex.s. c 171 § 25; 1971 ex.s. c 8 § 5.]

**Severability—1986 c 266:** See note following RCW 38.52.005.

**RCW 38.52.210 Compensation boards—Established.** (1) In each local organization for emergency management established by the legislative authority of the county in accordance with the provisions of RCW 38.52.070, there is hereby created and established a compensation board for the processing of claims as provided in this chapter. The compensation board shall be composed of: (a) The county executive if the county has an elected county executive or, if it does not, one member of the county legislative authority selected by the authority. The executive or the member will serve as the chair of the compensation board; (b) the county director of emergency services; (c) the prosecuting attorney; (d) the emergency services coordinator for medical and health services; and (e) the county auditor who will serve as secretary of the compensation board.

(2) In each local organization for emergency management established by cities and towns in accordance with RCW 38.52.070, there is hereby created and established a compensation board for the processing of claims as provided in this chapter. The compensation board shall be composed of the mayor; the city director of emergency management; one councilmember or commissioner selected by the council or the commission; the city attorney or corporation counsel; and the local coordinator of medical and health services. The councilmember or commissioner so selected shall serve as the chair of the compensation board and the city director of emergency management shall serve as secretary of the board. [1986 c 266 § 32; 1984 c 38 § 23; 1981 c 213 § 6; 1974 ex.s. c 171 § 26; 1953 c 223 § 4.]

**Severability—1986 c 266:** See note following RCW 38.52.005.

**RCW 38.52.220 Compensation boards—Meetings—Claims not necessitating board meeting.** Said compensation board shall meet on the call of its chair on a regular monthly meeting day when there is business to come before it. The chair shall be required to call a meeting on any monthly meeting day when any claim for compensation under this chapter has been submitted to the board: PROVIDED, That as to claims involving amounts of two thousand dollars or less, the local

organization director shall submit recommendations directly to the state without convening a compensation board. [2011 c 336 § 795; 1984 c 38 § 24; 1971 ex.s. c 8 § 3; 1953 c 223 § 5.]

**RCW 38.52.230 Compensation boards—Attendance of witnesses, oaths, rules—Members uncompensated.** The compensation board, in addition to other powers herein granted, shall have the power to compel the attendance of witnesses to testify before it on all matters connected with the operation of this chapter and its chair or any member of said board may administer oath to such witnesses; to make all necessary rules and regulations for its guidance in conformity with the provisions of this chapter: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That no compensation or emoluments shall be paid to any member of said board for any duties performed as a member of said compensation board. [2011 c 336 § 796; 1953 c 223 § 6.]

**RCW 38.52.240 Compensation boards—Duties as to compensation applications.** The compensation board shall hear and decide all applications for compensation under this chapter. The board shall submit its recommendations to the director on such forms as he or she may prescribe. In case the decision of the director is different from the recommendation of the compensation board, the matter shall be submitted to the state emergency management council for action. [1986 c 266 § 33; 1984 c 38 § 25; 1974 ex.s. c 171 § 27; 1953 c 223 § 7.]

**Severability—1986 c 266:** See note following RCW 38.52.005.

**RCW 38.52.250 Compensation boards—Quorum—Transmittal of minutes, claims—Appeal to department.** A majority of the compensation board shall constitute a quorum, and no business shall be transacted when a majority is not present, and no claim shall be allowed when a majority of the board has not voted favorably thereon.

The board shall send a copy of the minutes of all meetings to the department with copies of all material pertaining to each claim submitted and noting the action of the board on each claim. Appeals may be made by the emergency worker from any action by the board within one year by writing to the department. [1986 c 266 § 34; 1984 c 38 § 26; 1974 ex.s. c 171 § 28; 1953 c 223 § 8.]

**Severability—1986 c 266:** See note following RCW 38.52.005.

**RCW 38.52.260 When compensation furnished.** Compensation shall be furnished to an emergency worker either within or without the state for any injury arising out of and occurring in the course of his or her activities as an emergency worker, and for the death of any such worker if the injury proximately causes death, in those cases where the following conditions occur:

(1) Where, at the time of the injury the emergency worker is performing services as an emergency worker, and is acting within the course of his or her duties as an emergency worker.

(2) Where, at the time of the injury the local organization for emergency management with which the emergency worker is registered is an approved local organization for emergency management.

(3) Where the injury is proximately caused by his or her service as an emergency worker, either with or without negligence.

(4) Where the injury is not caused by the intoxication of the injured emergency worker.

(5) Where the injury is not intentionally self-inflicted. [2011 c 336 § 797; 1984 c 38 § 27; 1974 ex.s. c 171 § 29; 1953 c 223 § 10.]

**RCW 38.52.270 Minors entitled to benefits.** Emergency workers who are minors shall have the same rights as adults for the purpose of receiving benefits under the provisions of this chapter, but this provision shall not prevent the requirements that a guardian be appointed to receive and administer such benefits until the majority of such minor. Work as an emergency worker shall not be deemed as employment or in violation of any of the provisions of chapter 49.12 RCW. [1984 c 38 § 28; 1974 ex.s. c 171 § 30; 1953 c 223 § 11.]

**RCW 38.52.280 Compensation and benefits limited by appropriation.** No compensation or benefits shall be paid or furnished to emergency workers or their dependents pursuant to the provisions of this chapter except from money appropriated for the purpose of this chapter. [1984 c 38 § 29; 1974 ex.s. c 171 § 31; 1953 c 223 § 12.]

**RCW 38.52.290 Applicability of workers' compensation law.** Insofar as not inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter, the maximum amount payable to a claimant shall be not greater than the amount allowable for similar disability under the workers' compensation act, chapter 51.32 RCW as amended by chapter 289, Laws of 1971 ex.sess., and any amendments thereto. "Employee" as used in said title shall include an emergency worker when liability for the furnishing of compensation and benefits exists pursuant to the provisions of this chapter and as limited by the provisions of this chapter. Where liability for compensation and benefits exists, such compensation and benefits shall be provided in accordance with the applicable provisions of said sections of chapter 51.32 RCW and at the maximum rate provided therein, subject, however, to the limitations set forth in this chapter. [1987 c 185 § 8; 1984 c 38 § 30; 1974 ex.s. c 171 § 32; 1971 ex.s. c 289 § 71; 1953 c 223 § 13.]

**Intent—Severability—1987 c 185:** See notes following RCW 51.12.130.

**Severability—Effective dates—1971 ex.s. c 289:** See RCW 51.98.060 and 51.98.070.

**RCW 38.52.300 Right of action against third party.** If the injury to an emergency worker is due to the negligence or wrong of another not on emergency duty, the injured worker, or if death results from the injury, the surviving spouse, children, parents or dependents, as the case may be, shall elect whether to take under this

chapter or seek a remedy against such other, such election to be in advance of any suit under this chapter; and if the surviving spouse takes under this chapter, the cause of action against such other shall be assigned to the department; if the other choice is made, the compensation under this chapter shall be only the deficiency, if any, between the amount of recovery against such third person actually collected, and the compensation provided or estimated for such case under authority of this chapter: PROVIDED, That the department shall prosecute all claims assigned to it and do any and all things necessary to recover on behalf of the state any and all amounts which an employer or insurance carrier might recover under the provisions of the law. [1986 c 266 § 35; 1984 c 38 § 31; 1973 1st ex.s. c 154 § 59; 1953 c 223 § 14.]

**Severability—1986 c 266:** See note following RCW 38.52.005.

**Severability—1973 1st ex.s. c 154:** See note following RCW 2.12.030.

**RCW 38.52.310 Coverage, classification, registration, of workers.** The department shall establish by rule and regulation various classes of emergency workers, the scope of the duties of each class, and the conditions under which said workers shall be deemed to be on duty and covered by the provisions of this chapter. The department shall also adopt rules and regulations prescribing the manner in which emergency workers of each class are to be registered. [1986 c 266 § 36; 1984 c 38 § 32; 1974 ex.s. c 171 § 33; 1953 c 223 § 15.]

**Severability—1986 c 266:** See note following RCW 38.52.005.

**RCW 38.52.320 Schedule of payments.** The department shall provide each compensation board with the approved maximum schedule of payments for injury or death prescribed in chapter 51.32 RCW: PROVIDED, That nothing in this chapter shall be construed as establishing any liability on the part of the department of labor and industries. [1986 c 266 § 37; 1984 c 38 § 33; 1974 ex.s. c 171 § 34; 1953 c 223 § 16.]

**Severability—1986 c 266:** See note following RCW 38.52.005.

**RCW 38.52.330 Expenditures authorized—Claims, payment and disposition—Appeals.** The department is authorized to make all expenditures necessary and proper to carry out the provisions of this chapter including payments to claimants for compensation as emergency workers and their dependents; to adjust and dispose of all claims submitted by a local compensation board. When medical treatment is necessary, the department is authorized to make medical and compensation payments on an interim basis. Nothing herein shall be construed to mean that the department or the state emergency management council or its officers or agents shall have the final decision with respect to the compensability of any case or the amount of compensation or benefits due, but any emergency worker or his or

her dependents shall have the same right of appeal from any order, decision, or award to the same extent as provided in chapter 51.32 RCW. [1986 c 266 § 38; 1984 c 38 § 34; 1979 ex.s. c 268 § 3; 1974 ex.s. c 171 § 35; 1971 ex.s. c 289 § 72; 1953 c 223 § 17.]

**Severability—1986 c 266:** See note following RCW 38.52.005.

**Severability—Effective dates—1971 ex.s. c 289:** See RCW 51.98.060 and 51.98.070.

**RCW 38.52.340 Benefits under other compensation plans.** Nothing in this chapter shall deprive any emergency worker or his or her dependents of any right to compensation for injury or death sustained in the course of his or her regular employment even though his or her regular work is under direction of emergency management authorities: PROVIDED, That such worker, if he or she is eligible for some other compensation plan, and receives the benefits of such plan shall not also receive any compensation under this chapter. The department shall adopt such rules and regulations as may be necessary to protect the rights of such workers and may enter into agreements with authorities in charge of other compensation plans to insure protection of such workers: PROVIDED, That if the compensation from some other plan is less than would have been available under this chapter, he or she shall be entitled to receive the deficiency between the amount received under such other plan and the amount available under this chapter. [1986 c 266 § 39; 1984 c 38 § 35; 1974 ex.s. c 171 § 36; 1953 c 223 § 18.]

**Severability—1986 c 266:** See note following RCW 38.52.005.

**RCW 38.52.350 Benefits furnished under federal law—Reduction of state benefits.** Should the United States or any agent thereof, in accordance with any federal statute or rule or regulation, furnish monetary assistance, benefits, or other temporary or permanent relief to emergency workers or to their dependents for injuries arising out of and occurring in the course of their activities as emergency workers, then the amount of compensation which any emergency worker or his or her dependents are otherwise entitled to receive from the state of Washington as provided herein, shall be reduced by the amount of monetary assistance, benefits, or other temporary or permanent relief the emergency worker or his or her dependents have received and will receive from the United States or any agent thereof as a result of his or her injury. [2011 c 336 § 798; 1984 c 38 § 36; 1974 ex.s. c 171 § 37; 1953 c 223 § 19.]

**RCW 38.52.360 Medical, surgical or hospital treatment.** If, in addition to monetary assistance, benefits or other temporary or permanent relief, the United States or any agent thereof furnishes medical, surgical or hospital treatment or any combination thereof to an injured emergency worker, then the emergency worker has no right to receive similar medical, surgical or hospital treatment as provided in this chapter. However, the department may furnish medical, surgical or hospital treatment as part of the compensation provided under the

provisions of this chapter. [1986 c 266 § 40; 1984 c 38 § 37; 1974 ex.s. c 171 § 38; 1953 c 223 § 20.]

**Severability—1986 c 266:** See note following RCW 38.52.005.

**RCW 38.52.370 Medical, surgical or hospital treatment—Reimbursement.** If, in addition to monetary assistance, benefits, or other temporary or permanent relief, the United States or any agent thereof, will reimburse an emergency worker or his or her dependents for medical, surgical or hospital treatment, or any combination thereof, furnished to the injured emergency worker, the emergency worker has no right to receive similar medical, surgical or hospital treatment as provided in this chapter, but the department, may furnish a medical, surgical or hospital treatment as part of the compensation provided under the provisions of this chapter and apply to the United States or its agent for the reimbursement which will be made to the emergency worker or his or her dependents. As a condition to the furnishing of such medical, surgical or hospital treatment, the department shall require the emergency worker and his dependents to assign to the state of Washington, for the purpose of reimbursing for any medical, surgical or hospital treatment furnished or to be furnished by the state, any claim or right such emergency worker or his or her dependents may have to reimbursement from the United States or any agent thereof. [1986 c 266 § 41; 1984 c 38 § 38; 1974 ex.s. c 171 § 39; 1953 c 223 § 21.]

**Severability—1986 c 266:** See note following RCW 38.52.005.

**RCW 38.52.380 State compensation denied if payment prevents federal benefits.** If the furnishing of compensation under the provisions of this chapter to an emergency worker or his or her dependents prevents such emergency worker or his or her dependents from receiving assistance, benefits, or other temporary or permanent relief under the provisions of a federal statute or rule or regulation, then the emergency worker and his or her dependents shall have no right to, and shall not receive, any compensation from the state of Washington under the provisions of this chapter for any injury for which the United States or any agent thereof will furnish assistance, benefits, or other temporary or permanent relief in the absence of the furnishing of compensation by the state of Washington. [2011 c 336 § 799; 1984 c 38 § 39; 1974 ex.s. c 171 § 40; 1953 c 223 § 22.]

**RCW 38.52.390 Contracts or work on cost basis for emergency management activities.** The governor, or upon his or her direction, the director, or any political subdivision of the state, is authorized to contract with any person, firm, corporation, or entity to provide construction or work on a cost basis to be used in emergency management functions or activities as defined in \*RCW 38.52.010(1) or as hereafter amended, said functions or activities to expressly include natural disasters, as well as all other emergencies of a type contemplated by RCW 38.52.110, 38.52.180, 38.52.195, 38.52.205, 38.52.207, 38.52.220 and 38.52.390. All funds received for purposes of



RCW 38.52.110, 38.52.180, 38.52.195, 38.52.205, 38.52.207, 38.52.220 and 38.52.390, whether appropriated funds, local funds, or from whatever source, may be used to pay for the construction, equipment, or work contracted for under this section. [1986 c 266 § 42; 1984 c 38 § 40; 1971 ex.s. c 8 § 6.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 38.52.010 was alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k), changing subsection (1) to subsection (4). RCW 38.52.010 was subsequently amended by 2017 c 312 § 3, changing subsection (4) to subsection (5). RCW 38.52.010 was subsequently amended by 2019 c 207 § 1 and by 2019 c 471 § 2, changing subsection (5) to subsection (8). RCW 38.52.010 was amended by 2022 c 203 § 2, changing subsection (8) to subsection (12).

**Severability—1986 c 266:** See note following RCW 38.52.005.

**RCW 38.52.400 Search and rescue activities—Powers and duties of local officials.** (1) The chief law enforcement officer of each political subdivision shall be responsible for local search and rescue activities. Operation of search and rescue activities shall be in accordance with state and local operations plans adopted by the elected governing body of each local political subdivision. These state and local plans must specify the use of the incident command system for multiagency/multijurisdiction search and rescue operations. The local emergency management director shall notify the department of all search and rescue missions. The local director of emergency management shall work in a coordinating capacity directly supporting all search and rescue activities in that political subdivision and in registering emergency search and rescue workers for employee status. The chief law enforcement officer of each political subdivision may restrict access to a specific search and rescue area to personnel authorized by him or her. Access shall be restricted only for the period of time necessary to accomplish the search and rescue mission. No unauthorized person shall interfere with a search and rescue mission.

(2) When search and rescue activities result in the discovery of a deceased person or search and rescue workers assist in the recovery of human remains, the chief law enforcement officer of the political subdivision shall insure compliance with chapter 68.50 RCW. [2011 c 336 § 800; 1997 c 49 § 5; 1986 c 266 § 43; 1984 c 38 § 41; 1979 ex.s. c 268 § 4.]

**Severability—1986 c 266:** See note following RCW 38.52.005.

**RCW 38.52.410 Search and rescue activities—Distribution of funds for compensation and reimbursement of volunteers.** Funds received by the department specifically for the purposes of compensating search and rescue volunteers shall be distributed by the director to help fund medical and compensation coverage provided by this chapter and provide reimbursement by the state for: (1) Costs involved in extraordinary search and rescue operations such as search and rescue operations lasting over twenty-four hours where food and lodging for workers is necessary; (2) excessive transportation and rescue costs incurred by out-of-county residents which would not be otherwise collectible; and (3) compensation as provided in RCW

38.52.020(1)(d) as now or hereafter amended. [1986 c 266 § 44; 1984 c 38 § 42; 1979 ex.s. c 268 § 5.]

**Severability—1986 c 266:** See note following RCW 38.52.005.

**RCW 38.52.420 Model contingency plan for pollution control facilities and hazardous waste management.** (1) The department, in consultation with appropriate federal agencies, the departments of natural resources, fish and wildlife, and ecology, representatives of local government, and any other person the director may deem appropriate, shall assist in the development of a model contingency plan, consistent with other plans required for hazardous materials by federal and state law, to serve as a draft plan for local governments which may be incorporated into the state and local emergency management plans.

(2) The model contingency plan shall:

(a) Include specific recommendations for pollution control facilities which are deemed to be most appropriate for the control, collection, storage, treatment, disposal, and recycling of oil and other spilled material and furthering the prevention and mitigation of such pollution;

(b) Include recommendations for the training of local personnel consistent with other training proposed, funded, or required by federal or state laws for hazardous materials;

(c) Suggest cooperative training exercises between the public and private sector consistent with other training proposed, funded, or required by federal or state laws for hazardous materials;

(d) Identify federal and state laws requiring contingency or management plans applicable or related to prevention of pollution, emergency response capabilities, and hazardous waste management, together with a list of funding sources that local governments may use in development of their specific plans;

(e) Promote formal agreements between the department and local entities for effective spill response; and

(f) Develop policies and procedures for the augmentation of emergency services and agency spill response personnel through the use of volunteers: PROVIDED, That no contingency plan may require the use of volunteers by a responding responsible party without that party's consent. [1997 c 49 § 6; 1995 c 391 § 4; 1994 c 264 § 11; 1988 c 36 § 11; 1987 c 479 § 3.]

**Effective date—1995 c 391:** See note following RCW 38.52.005.

**RCW 38.52.430 Emergency response caused by person's intoxication—Recovery of costs from convicted person.** A person whose intoxication causes an incident resulting in an appropriate emergency response, and who, in connection with the incident, has been found guilty of or has had their prosecution deferred for (1) driving while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any drug, RCW 46.61.502; (2) physical control of a motor vehicle while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any drug, RCW 46.61.504; (3) operating an aircraft under the influence of intoxicants or drugs, RCW 47.68.220; (4) use of a vessel while under the influence of alcohol or drugs, RCW 79A.60.040; (5) vehicular homicide while under the influence of

intoxicating liquor or any drug, RCW 46.61.520(1)(a); or (6) vehicular assault while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any drug, RCW 46.61.522(1)(b), is liable for the expense of an emergency response by a public agency to the incident.

The expense of an emergency response is a charge against the person liable for expenses under this section. The charge constitutes a debt of that person and is collectible by the public agency incurring those costs in the same manner as in the case of an obligation under a contract, expressed or implied. Following a conviction of an offense listed in this section, and prior to sentencing, the prosecution may present to the court information setting forth the expenses incurred by the public agency for its emergency response to the incident. Upon a finding by the court that the expenses are reasonable, the court shall order the defendant to reimburse the public agency. The cost reimbursement shall be included in the sentencing order as an additional monetary obligation of the defendant and may not be substituted for any other fine or cost required or allowed by statute. The court may establish a payment schedule for the payment of the cost reimbursement, separate from any payment schedule imposed for other fines and costs. All payments for the cost reimbursement must be remitted directly to the public agency or agencies that incurred the cost associated with the emergency response.

In no event shall a person's liability under this section for the expense of an emergency response exceed two thousand five hundred dollars for a particular incident.

If more than one public agency makes a claim for payment from an individual for an emergency response to a single incident under the provisions of this section, and the sum of the claims exceeds the amount recovered, the division of the amount recovered shall be determined by an interlocal agreement consistent with the requirements of chapter 39.34 RCW. [2020 c 330 § 4; 2012 c 183 § 6; 1993 c 251 § 2.]

**Effective date—2012 c 183:** See note following RCW 9.94A.475.

**Finding—Intent—1993 c 251:** "The legislature finds that a public agency incurs expenses in an emergency response. It is the intent of the legislature to allow a public agency to recover the expenses of an emergency response to an incident involving persons who operate a motor vehicle, boat or vessel, or a civil aircraft while under the influence of an alcoholic beverage or a drug, or the combined influence of an alcoholic beverage and a drug. It is the intent of the legislature that the recovery of expenses of an emergency response under this act shall supplement and shall not supplant other provisions of law relating to the recovery of those expenses." [1993 c 251 § 1.]

**RCW 38.52.440 Assistance for persons with disabilities present at scene of emergency—Assessment and report—Definitions.** (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the director, through the state 911 coordinator, and in collaboration with the department of health, the department of social and health services, the Washington state patrol, the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs, the Washington council of police and

sheriffs, the state fire marshal's office, a representative of a first responder organization with experience in addressing the needs of a person with a disability, and other individuals and entities at the discretion of the director, must assess, and report back to the appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 2018, regarding:

(a) The resources, capabilities, techniques, protocols, and procedures available or required in order to include as part of the enhanced 911 emergency service the ability to allow an immediate display on the screen indicating that a person with a disability may be present at the scene of an emergency, the caller's identification, location, phone number, address, and if made available, additional information on the person with a disability that would assist the first responder in the emergency response;

(b) How best to acquire, implement, and safeguard a secure website and the information in the system provided by a person with a disability, or a parent, guardian, or caretaker of a person with a disability in order to make such information directly available to first responders at the scene of an emergency or on the way to the scene of an emergency;

(c) What information provided by a person must remain confidential under state or federal law, or otherwise should remain confidential without written permission to release it for purposes of chapter 295, Laws of 2017 or the information is otherwise releasable or available under other provisions of law; and

(d) The need to provide various agencies and employees that are first responders and emergency personnel immunity from civil liability for acts or omissions in the performance of their duties, and what standard should apply, such as if the act or omission is the result of simple negligence, gross negligence, or willful misconduct.

(2) For purposes of this section:

(a) Both "accident" and "emergency" mean an unforeseen combination of circumstances or a resulting situation that results in a need for assistance or relief and calls for immediate action; and

(b) "Person with a disability" means an individual who has been diagnosed medically to have a physical, mental, emotional, intellectual, behavioral, developmental, or sensory disability. [2022 c 203 § 4; 2017 c 295 § 3.]

**Modernization of statewide 911 emergency communications system—**  
**2022 c 203:** See note following RCW 38.52.010.

**Short title—2017 c 295:** See note following RCW 43.70.490.

**RCW 38.52.500 Statewide 911 telephone service—Finding.** The legislature finds that a statewide emergency communications network of 911 telephone service, which allows an immediate display of a caller's identification and location, would serve to further the safety, health, and welfare of the state's citizens, and would save lives. The legislature, after reviewing the study outlined in section 1, chapter 260, Laws of 1990, further finds that statewide implementation of 911 telephone service is feasible and should be accomplished as soon as practicable. [2022 c 203 § 5; 1991 c 54 § 1.]

**Modernization of statewide 911 emergency communications system—  
2022 c 203:** See note following RCW 38.52.010.

**Referral to electorate—1991 c 54:** See note following RCW 38.52.030.

**RCW 38.52.501 Statewide 911 emergency communications service—  
Findings.** The legislature finds that statewide 911 emergency communications service has proven to be a lifesaving service and that routing a 911 call to the appropriate public safety answering point with a display of the caller's identification and location should be available for all users of telecommunications services, regardless of the technology used to make and transmit the 911 call. The legislature also finds that it is in the best public interest to ensure that there is adequate ongoing funding to support necessary 911 system upgrades as technology evolves to next generation 911 technology and beyond for 911 emergency communications baseline service statewide that supports emerging communications devices. [2022 c 203 § 6; 2002 c 341 § 1.]

**Modernization of statewide 911 emergency communications system—  
2022 c 203:** See note following RCW 38.52.010.

**Severability—2002 c 341:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [2002 c 341 § 14.]

**Effective date—2002 c 341:** "This act takes effect January 1, 2003." [2002 c 341 § 15.]

**RCW 38.52.505 Statewide 911 emergency service—Automatic location identification—Rules.** The adjutant general shall establish rules on minimum information requirements of automatic location identification for the purposes of 911 emergency service. Such rules shall permit the chief of a local fire department or a chief fire protection officer or such other person as may be designated by the governing body of a city or county to take into consideration local circumstances when approving the accuracy of location information generated when calls are made to 911 from facilities within his or her service area. [2022 c 203 § 7; 1999 c 24 § 2.]

**Modernization of statewide 911 emergency communications system—  
2022 c 203:** See note following RCW 38.52.010.

**Findings—1999 c 24:** "The legislature finds that the citizens of the state increasingly rely on the dependability of enhanced 911, a system that allows the person answering an emergency call to determine the location of the emergency immediately without the caller needing to speak. The legislature further finds that the degree of accuracy of the displayed information must be adequate to permit rapid location of the caller while taking into consideration variables specific to local conditions. The legislature further finds that it is appropriate that rules permitting local fire agencies to evaluate and approve the

accuracy of location information relating to their service areas be adopted." [1999 c 24 § 1.]

**RCW 38.52.510 Statewide 911 communications systems—Funding by counties—State patrol public safety answering point.** (1) Each county, singly or in combination with one or more counties, must provide or participate in countywide or multicounty-wide 911 emergency communications systems so that 911 is available throughout the state. The county must provide funding for the 911 communications system in the county in an amount equal to the amount the maximum tax under RCW 82.14B.030(1) would generate in the county less any applicable administrative fee charged by the department of revenue or the amount necessary to provide full funding of the system in the county. The state 911 coordination office established by RCW 38.52.520 must assist and facilitate 911 implementation throughout the state.

(2) A county may request a Washington state patrol public safety answering point to become a primary public safety answering point and receive 911 calls from a specific geographical area and may cancel that designation at any time. [2022 c 203 § 8; 2010 1st sp.s. c 19 § 14; 1991 c 54 § 3.]

**Modernization of statewide 911 emergency communications system—2022 c 203:** See note following RCW 38.52.010.

**Effective dates—2010 1st sp.s. c 19:** See note following RCW 82.14B.010.

**Referral to electorate—1991 c 54:** See note following RCW 38.52.030.

**RCW 38.52.520 State 911 coordination office.** A state 911 coordination office, headed by the state 911 coordinator, is established in the emergency management division of the department. Duties of the office include:

(1) Administering the 911 account established in RCW 38.52.540;  
(2) Seeking advice and assistance from, and providing staff support for the 911 advisory committee;

(3) Providing and supporting 911 emergency communications systems, which may include procurement, funding, ownership, and management;

(4) Assisting the counties and Washington state patrol public safety answering points by distributing state 911 emergency communications system funding within the priorities identified in RCW 38.52.545. When designated as a primary public safety answering point by the county, the state 911 coordination office may provide funding for Washington state patrol public safety answering point 911 emergency communications systems;

(5) Develop forms, submission dates, and methods as necessary for all public safety answering points to submit reports;

(6) Providing staff support and assistance to the certification board established under RCW 38.60.030 that includes, but may not be limited to:

(a) Establishing forms and procedures necessary to administer chapter 38.60 RCW;

(b) Issuing a public safety telecommunicator registration and certification to any applicant who has met the requirements for certification under chapter 38.60 RCW; and

(c) Maintaining the official record for the department of all applicants and persons with registrations and certificates under chapter 38.60 RCW;

(7) Recommending to the utilities and transportation commission by August 31st of each year the level of the state 911 emergency communications system excise tax established in RCW 82.14B.030(5) for the following year;

(8) Establishing rules that:

(a) Determine eligible components of the 911 emergency communications system, its administration, and operation that the state and county 911 excise taxes, under RCW 82.14B.030, may be used to fund;

(b) Determine how appropriated funds from the state 911 account shall be distributed, considering the baseline level of 911 emergency communications system service needs of individual counties and county-designated Washington state patrol primary public safety answering points for specific assistance; and

(c) Specify statewide 911 emergency communications system and service standards, consistent with applicable state and federal law. The authority given to the state 911 coordinator in this section is limited to setting standards as set forth in this section and does not constitute authority to regulate radio communications service companies or interconnected voice over internet protocol service companies; and

(9) Annually providing a complete report to the 911 advisory committee on:

(a) Efforts to modernize their existing 911 emergency communications system;

(b) All public safety answering points expenditures for administrative and operational costs and expenses of the 911 emergency communications system; and

(c) Any additional data that may be identified by the 911 advisory committee. [2022 c 286 § 6; 2022 c 203 § 9; 2010 1st sp.s. c 19 § 15; 1991 c 54 § 4.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 2022 c 203 § 9 and by 2022 c 286 § 6, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Modernization of statewide 911 emergency communications system—2022 c 203:** See note following RCW 38.52.010.

**Effective dates—2010 1st sp.s. c 19:** See note following RCW 82.14B.010.

**Referral to electorate—1991 c 54:** See note following RCW 38.52.030.

**RCW 38.52.525 State 911 coordination office—Public education materials.** The state 911 coordination office may develop and provide public education materials relating to the 911 emergency communications system. [2022 c 203 § 10; 1995 c 243 § 9.]

**Modernization of statewide 911 emergency communications system—  
2022 c 203:** See note following RCW 38.52.010.

**Findings—Severability—1995 c 243:** See notes following RCW 80.36.555.

**RCW 38.52.531 911 advisory committee.** The 911 advisory committee is created to advise and assist the state 911 coordinator in coordinating and facilitating the implementation and operation of 911 throughout the state. The director shall appoint:

(1) County 911 representatives from diverse urban and rural geographical counties;

(2) The statewide 988 coordinator or designee identified by the office of the governor;

(3) Those who represent diverse geographical areas of the state and include state residents who are members of the national emergency number association, the association of public communications officials Washington chapter, the Washington state fire chiefs association, the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs, the Washington state council of firefighters, the Washington state council of police officers, the Washington ambulance association, the Washington state firefighters association, the Washington state association of fire marshals, the Washington fire commissioners association, the Washington state patrol, the association of Washington cities, and the Washington state association of counties;

(4) The utilities and transportation commission or commission staff;

(5) A representative of a voice over internet protocol company;

(6) An equal number of representatives of large and small local exchange telephone companies and large and small radio communications service companies offering commercial mobile radio service in the state;

(7) A representative of the Washington state department of health; and

(8) Other members identified and appointed by the director.

[2022 c 203 § 11.]

**Modernization of statewide 911 emergency communications system—  
2022 c 203:** See note following RCW 38.52.010.

**RCW 38.52.532 911 advisory committee—Annual legislative update—  
Modernization—Public safety answering points.** (1) Annually, the 911 advisory committee must provide an update on the status of 911 service in the state to the appropriate committees in the legislature. The update must include progress by the state 911 coordination office and the counties towards continual growth and maintenance of a 911 emergency communications system with greater efficiencies in 911 operations including, but not limited to, regionalization of facilities, centralization of equipment, statewide purchasing, strategic plan performance, and fiscal health of the 911 emergency communications system.

(2) To assist with modernization of the 911 emergency communications system, all counties operating public safety answering points in Washington state, with the exception of tribal nations, must



assist the 911 advisory committee to update the legislature annually within the requirements of \*RCW 38.52.520(8) by providing annual public safety answering point expenditure reports and additional information as necessary requested by the state 911 coordinator's office.

(3) To assist with modernization of the 911 emergency communications system, public safety answering points providing service in multiple counties shall report to the county where they are physically located. Public safety answering points providing services outside of Washington state borders shall limit reporting to those areas within the boundaries of Washington state. Counties receiving services from a public safety answering point outside of Washington state must report the cost of services into their county. [2022 c 203 § 12; 2010 1st sp.s. c 19 § 17; 2006 c 210 § 2.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 38.52.520 was amended by 2022 c 286 § 6 and 2022 c 203 § 9, changing subsection (8) to subsection (9).

**Modernization of statewide 911 emergency communications system—  
2022 c 203:** See note following RCW 38.52.010.

**Effective dates—2010 1st sp.s. c 19:** See note following RCW 82.14B.010.

**RCW 38.52.535 State 911 coordination office and advisory committee—Uniform national standards.** The state 911 coordination office and the 911 advisory committee may participate in efforts to set uniform national standards for the 911 emergency communications system. [2022 c 203 § 13; 1998 c 245 § 32; 1995 c 243 § 10.]

**Modernization of statewide 911 emergency communications system—  
2022 c 203:** See note following RCW 38.52.010.

**Findings—Severability—1995 c 243:** See notes following RCW 80.36.555.

**RCW 38.52.540 911 account.** (1) The 911 account is created in the state treasury. All receipts from the state 911 excise taxes imposed by RCW 82.14B.030 must be deposited into the account. Moneys in the account must be used to support the priorities established in RCW 38.52.545, procure, fund, and manage the statewide 911 emergency communications system network, purchase goods and services that support the counties and Washington state patrol public safety answering points in providing 911 baseline level of service statewide, assist the counties and Washington state patrol public safety answering points to provide 911 emergency communications systems and associated administrative and operational costs, acquire 911 hardware, software, and technology appropriate to support a 911 emergency communications system, 911 emergency communications training and public education, support the statewide coordination and management of the 911 emergency communications system, and for modernization needs as technology evolves of the 911 emergency communications systems statewide.

(2) Funds generated by the 911 excise tax imposed by RCW 82.14B.030 (5), (6), and (8) may not be distributed to any county that

has not imposed the maximum county 911 excise tax allowed under RCW 82.14B.030 (1) through (3).

(3) The state 911 coordinator, with the advice and assistance of the 911 advisory committee, is authorized to enter into statewide agreements to improve the efficiency of the 911 emergency communications system and shall specify by rule the additional purposes for which moneys, if available, may be expended from this account. [2022 c 203 § 14; 2015 3rd sp.s. c 4 § 949; 2013 2nd sp.s. c 4 § 966; 2012 2nd sp.s. c 7 § 915; 2010 1st sp.s. c 19 § 18. Prior: 2002 c 371 § 905; 2002 c 341 § 4; 2001 c 128 § 2; 1998 c 304 § 14; 1994 c 96 § 7; 1991 c 54 § 6.]

**Modernization of statewide 911 emergency communications system—  
2022 c 203:** See note following RCW 38.52.010.

**Effective dates—2015 3rd sp.s. c 4:** See note following RCW 28B.15.069.

**Effective dates—2013 2nd sp.s. c 4:** See note following RCW 2.68.020.

**Effective date—2012 2nd sp.s. c 7:** See note following RCW 2.68.020.

**Effective dates—2010 1st sp.s. c 19:** See note following RCW 82.14B.010.

**Severability—Effective date—2002 c 371:** See notes following RCW 9.46.100.

**Severability—Effective date—2002 c 341:** See notes following RCW 38.52.501.

**Findings—2001 c 128:** "The legislature finds that the statewide emergency communications network of enhanced 911 telephone service, which allows an immediate display of a caller's identification and location, has served to further the safety, health, and welfare of the state's citizens, and has saved lives.

The legislature further finds that statewide operation and management of the enhanced 911 system will create efficiencies of operation and permit greater local control of county 911 operations, and further that some counties will continue to need assistance from the state to maintain minimum enhanced 911 service levels." [2001 c 128 § 1.]

**Effective date—2001 c 128:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect July 1, 2001." [2001 c 128 § 4.]

**Findings—Effective dates—1998 c 304:** See notes following RCW 82.14B.020.

**Finding—Intent—Effective dates—1994 c 96:** See notes following RCW 82.14B.020.

**Referral to electorate—1991 c 54:** See note following RCW 38.52.030.

**RCW 38.52.545 Priorities for 911 funding.** In specifying rules defining the purposes for which available state 911 moneys may be expended, the state 911 coordinator, with the advice and assistance of the 911 advisory committee, must consider needs necessary to provide a baseline level of 911 service by individual counties and their designated Washington state patrol public safety answering points. Priorities for available 911 emergency communications system funding are as follows:

(1) To procure, fund, and manage the statewide 911 network and supporting services, and assure that 911 dialing is operational statewide;

(2) To assist counties and Washington state patrol public safety answering points to provide 911 emergency communications systems and associated administrative and operational costs as necessary to assure that they can achieve a baseline level of service for 911 operations; and

(3) To assist counties and their designated Washington state patrol public safety answering points to acquire 911 hardware, software, and technology to support a 911 emergency communications system baseline level of service. [2022 c 203 § 15; 2010 1st sp.s. c 19 § 19; 2001 c 128 § 3.]

**Modernization of statewide 911 emergency communications system—2022 c 203:** See note following RCW 38.52.010.

**Effective dates—2010 1st sp.s. c 19:** See note following RCW 82.14B.010.

**Findings—Effective date—2001 c 128:** See notes following RCW 38.52.540.

**RCW 38.52.550 Emergency communications systems and information—Immunity from civil liability.** A telecommunications company, radio communications service company, or interconnected voice over internet protocol service company, providing emergency communications systems or services or a business or individual providing database information to 911 emergency communications personnel is not liable for civil damages caused by an act or omission of the company, business, or individual, the state, political subdivisions[,], and any 911 public corporations in the:

(1) Good faith release of information not in the public record, including unpublished or unlisted subscriber information to emergency service providers responding to calls placed to an [a] 911 emergency communications service; or

(2) Design, development, installation, maintenance, or provision of consolidated 911 emergency communications systems or services other than an act or omission constituting gross negligence or wanton or willful misconduct. [2022 c 203 § 16; 2010 1st sp.s. c 19 § 20; 2002 c 341 § 5; 1991 c 329 § 7.]

**Modernization of statewide 911 emergency communications system—  
2022 c 203:** See note following RCW 38.52.010.

**Effective dates—2010 1st sp.s. c 19:** See note following RCW 82.14B.010.

**Severability—Effective date—2002 c 341:** See notes following RCW 38.52.501.

**RCW 38.52.561 911 calls from radio communications and interconnected voice over internet protocol service companies—Technical and operational standards.** The state 911 coordinator, with the advice and assistance of the 911 advisory committee, must set nondiscriminatory, uniform technical and operational standards consistent with the rules of the federal communications commission for the transmission of 911 calls from radio communications service companies and interconnected voice over internet protocol service companies to 911 emergency communications systems. These standards must be modernized to align with national standards adopted by the state of Washington in rule making and not exceed the requirements set by the federal communications commission. The authority given to the state 911 coordinator in this section is limited to setting standards as set forth in this section and does not constitute authority to regulate radio communications service companies or interconnected voice over internet protocol service companies. [2022 c 203 § 17; 2010 1st sp.s. c 19 § 21; 2002 c 341 § 6.]

**Modernization of statewide 911 emergency communications system—  
2022 c 203:** See note following RCW 38.52.010.

**Effective dates—2010 1st sp.s. c 19:** See note following RCW 82.14B.010.

**Severability—Effective date—2002 c 341:** See notes following RCW 38.52.501.

**RCW 38.52.575 Information in automatic number identification or automatic location identification database that is part of county 911 emergency communications system—Other information associated with county 911 emergency communications system—Exemption from public inspection and copying.** (1) Information contained in an automatic number identification or automatic location identification database that is part of a county 911 emergency communications system as defined in RCW 82.14B.020 and intended for display at a public safety answering point with incoming 911 voice or data is exempt from public inspection and copying under chapter 42.56 RCW.

(2) Information voluntarily submitted to be contained in a database that is part of or associated with a county 911 emergency communications system as defined in RCW 82.14B.020 and intended for the purpose of display at a public safety answering point with incoming 911 voice or data is exempt from public inspection and copying under chapter 42.56 RCW.

(3) This section shall not be interpreted to prohibit:

(a) Display of information at a public safety answering point;

(b) Dissemination of information by the public safety answering point to police, fire, or emergency medical responders for display on a device used by police, fire, or emergency medical responders for the purpose of handling or responding to emergency calls or for training;

(c) Maintenance of the database by a county;

(d) Dissemination of information by a county to local agency personnel for inclusion in an emergency notification system that makes outgoing calls to telephone numbers to provide notification of a community emergency event;

(e) Inspection or copying by the subject of the information or an authorized representative; or

(f) The public disclosure of information prepared, retained, disseminated, transmitted, or recorded, for the purpose of handling or responding to emergency calls, unless disclosure of any such information is otherwise exempted under chapter 42.56 RCW or other law. [2022 c 203 § 18; 2015 c 224 § 6.]

**Modernization of statewide 911 emergency communications system—**  
**2022 c 203:** See note following RCW 38.52.010.

**RCW 38.52.577 Information from automatic number identification, automatic location identification database, or voluntarily submitted for inclusion in emergency notification system—Exemption from public inspection and copying.** Information obtained from an automatic number identification or automatic location identification database or voluntarily submitted to a local agency for inclusion in an emergency notification system is exempt from public inspection and copying under chapter 42.56 RCW. This section shall not be interpreted to prohibit:

(1) Making outgoing calls to telephone numbers to provide notification of a community emergency event;

(2) Maintenance of the database by a local agency; or

(3) Inspection or copying by the subject of the information or an authorized representative. [2015 c 224 § 7.]

**RCW 38.52.580 State agency communication plan for emergencies and disasters—Copy to legislature—Report.** Beginning December 1, 2019, a state agency that provides life safety information in an emergency or disaster must provide, to the relevant committees of the legislature, a copy of its current communication plan for notifying significant population segments of such information, including the agency's point of contact. The state agency must also submit an annual report to the relevant committees of the legislature identifying those instances of emergency or disaster in the preceding year in which life safety information was provided and what public messaging strategies and means were used to notify citizens with limited English proficiency. [2017 c 312 § 2.]

**Finding—Intent—2017 c 312:** "The legislature finds that, as a matter of human dignity, all persons should be informed of emergency notifications in a manner in which they can understand. It is the intent of the legislature that all persons who may be in harm's way in an emergency are informed of their peril, and informed of appropriate actions they should take to protect themselves and their families." [2017 c 312 § 1.]

**RCW 38.52.590 Disaster resilience program.** (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the emergency management division within the department shall develop and administer a disaster resilience program. The program should include:

- (a) Methods for ensuring ongoing coordination of state and local disaster resilience and response activities, including:
  - (i) Coordinating funding to maximize federal, state, local, and private investments;
  - (ii) Serving as a public and private disaster resilience resource center;
  - (iii) Enhancing interagency collaboration, education, and outreach programs; and
  - (iv) Identifying and leveraging respective roles, authorities, and expertise of agencies;
- (b) Strategies for addressing the impacts of all hazards, both natural and human-caused, such as border closures, including:
  - (i) Developing, coordinating, and communicating disaster resilience initiatives and projects across state agencies and local governments on hazards and issues where there is not another lead agency for coordinating resilience activities, including projects that give special consideration to exclave communities;
  - (ii) Conducting policy research and recommendations related to enhancing disaster resilience;
  - (iii) Coordinating research, data collection, and analysis;
  - (iv) Researching economic tools to address disaster resilience;

and

- (v) Recommending investments to mitigate disaster risks from all threats and hazards; and
- (c) Participating and collaborating in interagency efforts to advance statewide climate resilience activities under chapter 70A.05 RCW, including collaborating on the development of a statewide strategy and identifying opportunities to leverage funding to advance solutions that improve the resilience of communities, infrastructure, and ecosystems.

(2) For purposes of this section:

- (a) "Resilience" means the ability to prepare, mitigate, plan for, withstand, recover from, and more successfully adapt to adverse events and changing conditions, and reorganize in an equitable manner that results in a new and better condition; and
- (b) "Disaster resilience" means resilience within the critical infrastructure sectors of emergency services; communications; critical government facilities; transportation; critical manufacturing; commercial facilities; chemical manufacturing and distribution; water and wastewater treatment; and dams, excluding power generation. [2023 c 157 § 2.]

**Findings—Intent—2023 c 157:** "Washington state residents have been increasingly impacted by disasters such as floods, landslides, wildfires, earthquakes, and the COVID-19 pandemic and they continue to be at risk from emergency threats and other disasters, with communities of color and vulnerable populations disproportionately impacted. Residents are also negatively impacted by certain responses to disasters, including border closures. The legislature finds that it is critical to better prepare Washington for disasters and to mitigate the impacts with coordinated resilience strategies. The legislature further finds a resilient Washington increases quality of life for

Washingtonians while every one dollar spent on mitigation saves six dollars spent on recovery. To address this critical need, the legislature intends to implement a disaster resilience program for the benefit of all Washingtonians while conserving expenditures by both public and private sectors." [2023 c 157 § 1.]

**RCW 38.52.900 Short title.** This chapter may be cited as the Washington Emergency Management Act. [1984 c 38 § 43; 1974 ex.s. c 171 § 41; 1951 c 178 § 1.]

**RCW 38.52.920 Repeal and saving.** Chapter 177, Laws of 1941, chapters 6 and 24, Laws of 1943, and chapter 88, Laws of 1949 are repealed: PROVIDED, That this section shall not affect the validity of any order, rule, regulation, contract, or agreement made or promulgated under authority of the repealed acts, which orders, rules, regulations, contracts, or agreements shall remain in force until they may be repealed, amended, or superseded by orders, rules, regulations, contracts, or agreements made or promulgated under this chapter: PROVIDED FURTHER, That this section shall not affect the tenure of any officer, employee, or person serving under authority of any repealed act and such officer, employee, or person shall continue in his or her position until such time as a successor is appointed or employed under the provisions of this chapter. [2011 c 336 § 801; 1951 c 178 § 17.]

**RCW 38.52.930 Transfer of powers, duties, and functions to state military department.** All powers, duties, and functions of the \*department of community, trade, and economic development pertaining to emergency management are transferred to the state military department. All references to the director or the department of community development or the \*department of community, trade, and economic development in the Revised Code of Washington shall be construed to mean the adjutant general or the state military department when referring to the functions transferred in this section. [1995 c 391 § 10.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The "department of community, trade, and economic development" was renamed the "department of commerce" by 2009 c 565.

**Effective date—1995 c 391:** See note following RCW 38.52.005.

**RCW 38.52.940 Construction—Chapter applicable to state registered domestic partnerships—2009 c 521.** For the purposes of this chapter, the terms spouse, marriage, marital, husband, wife, widow, widower, next of kin, and family shall be interpreted as applying equally to state registered domestic partnerships or individuals in state registered domestic partnerships as well as to marital relationships and married persons, and references to dissolution of marriage shall apply equally to state registered domestic partnerships that have been terminated, dissolved, or invalidated, to the extent that such interpretation does not conflict with federal law. Where necessary to implement chapter 521, Laws of 2009, gender-specific terms such as husband and wife used in any

statute, rule, or other law shall be construed to be gender neutral, and applicable to individuals in state registered domestic partnerships. [2009 c 521 § 84.]



**Chapter 38.56 RCW**  
**INTRASTATE MUTUAL AID SYSTEM**

**Sections**

- 38.56.010 Definitions.
- 38.56.020 Intrastate mutual aid system—Established.
- 38.56.030 Member jurisdiction may request assistance from other member jurisdictions—Provisions.
- 38.56.040 Qualifications of emergency responders for the purposes of the requesting member jurisdiction.
- 38.56.050 Death or injury of emergency responder—Benefits.
- 38.56.060 Emergency responder—Not an employee of a requesting member jurisdiction.
- 38.56.070 Reimbursement for assistance provided.
- 38.56.080 Emergency responder of a responding member jurisdiction—Tort liability or immunity.

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- 38.56.070 Reimbursement for assistance provided.
- 38.56.080 Emergency responder of a responding member jurisdiction—Tort liability or immunity.

**RCW 38.56.010 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Assistance" means emergency responders and resources provided by a responding member jurisdiction in response to a request from a requesting member jurisdiction.

(2) "Department" means the state military department.

(3) "Emergency" means an event or set of circumstances that: (a) Demand immediate action to preserve public health, protect life, protect public property, or to provide relief to any stricken community overtaken by such occurrence; or (b) reach such a dimension or degree of destructiveness as to warrant the governor declaring a state of emergency pursuant to RCW 43.06.010.

(4) "Emergency responder" means an employee of a responding member jurisdiction who is designated in writing by that responding member jurisdiction as possessing skills, qualifications, training, knowledge, or experience that may be needed, pursuant to a request for assistance under this chapter, for: (a) Response, mitigation, or recovery activities related to an emergency; or (b) participation in drills or exercises in preparation for an emergency.

(5) "Operational control" means the limited authority to direct tasks, assignments, and use of assistance provided pursuant to a request for assistance under this chapter to address: (a) Response, mitigation, or recovery activities related to an emergency; or (b) participation in drills or exercises in preparation for an emergency. "Operational control" does not include any right, privilege, or benefit of ownership or employment such as disposition, compensation, wages, salary, pensions, health benefits, leave, seniority, discipline, promotion, hiring, or firing.

(6) "Political subdivision" means any county, city, or town in the state of Washington.

(7) "Requesting member jurisdiction" means a member jurisdiction that requests assistance from another member jurisdiction under this chapter.

(8) "Resources" includes supplies, materials, equipment, facilities, energy, services, information, systems, and other assets except for emergency responders that may be needed, pursuant to a request for assistance under this chapter, for: (a) Response,

mitigation, or recovery activities related to an emergency; or (b) participation in drills or exercises in preparation for an emergency.

(9) "Responding member jurisdiction" means a member jurisdiction providing or intending to provide assistance to a requesting member jurisdiction under this chapter. [2011 c 79 § 1.]

**RCW 38.56.020 Intrastate mutual aid system—Established.** (1)

The intrastate mutual aid system is established to provide for mutual assistance in an emergency among political subdivisions and federally recognized Indian tribes that choose to participate as member jurisdictions.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, member jurisdictions of the intrastate mutual aid system include:

(a) A political subdivision; and

(b) Any federally recognized Indian tribe located within the boundaries of the state of Washington upon receipt by the department of a tribal government resolution declaring its intention to be a member jurisdiction in the intrastate mutual aid system under this chapter.

(3) (a) A member jurisdiction is released from membership in the intrastate mutual aid system established under this chapter upon receipt by the department of a resolution or ordinance declaring that the member jurisdiction elects not to participate in the system.

(b) Nothing in this chapter may be construed to affect other mutual aid systems or agreements otherwise authorized by law, including the Washington state fire services mobilization plan and the law enforcement mobilization plan under chapter 43.43 RCW, nor preclude a political subdivision or Indian tribe from entering or participating in those mutual aid systems or agreements.

(4) Mutual assistance may be requested by, and provided to, member jurisdictions under this chapter for: (a) Response, mitigation, or recovery activities related to an emergency; or (b) participation in drills or exercises in preparation for an emergency. [2011 c 79 § 2.]

**RCW 38.56.030 Member jurisdiction may request assistance from other member jurisdictions—Provisions.** A member jurisdiction may request assistance from other member jurisdictions under the intrastate mutual aid system for response, mitigation, or recovery activities related to an emergency, or to participate in drills or exercises in preparation for an emergency, subject to each of the following provisions:

(1) Prior to requesting assistance, a requesting member jurisdiction must: (a) Have determined an emergency exists within its territorial limits consistent with applicable law, rule, regulation, code, ordinance, resolution, or other applicable legal authority; or (b) anticipate undertaking drills or exercises in preparation for an emergency.

(2) The chief executive officer of a requesting member jurisdiction, or authorized designee, must request assistance directly from the chief executive officer, or authorized designee, of another member jurisdiction. If this request is verbal, it must be confirmed in writing within thirty days after the date of the request.

(3) A responding member jurisdiction may withhold or withdraw requested assistance at any time and for any reason, in its sole discretion.

(4) A responding member jurisdiction shall designate in writing all assistance it provides to a requesting member jurisdiction at the time provided consistent with the guidelines and procedures developed by the intrastate mutual aid committee, and deliver copies of this documentation to the requesting member jurisdiction within thirty days after the assistance is provided.

(5) The requesting member jurisdiction only has operational control of assistance provided under this chapter, which may not interfere with a responding member jurisdiction's right to withdraw assistance. [2011 c 79 § 3.]

**RCW 38.56.040 Qualifications of emergency responders for the purposes of the requesting member jurisdiction.** An emergency responder holding a license, certificate, or other permit evidencing qualification in a professional, mechanical, or other skill, issued by the state of Washington or a political subdivision thereof, is deemed to be licensed, certified, or permitted in the requesting member jurisdiction for the duration of the emergency, drill, or exercise, subject to any limitations and conditions the chief executive officer of the requesting member jurisdiction may prescribe in writing. [2011 c 79 § 4.]

**RCW 38.56.050 Death or injury of emergency responder—Benefits.** An emergency responder designated by a responding member jurisdiction under RCW 38.56.030(4), who dies or sustains an injury while providing assistance to a requesting member jurisdiction as an emergency responder under this chapter, is entitled to receive only the benefits otherwise authorized by law for death or injury sustained in the course of employment with the responding member jurisdiction. Any such benefits provided by a responding member jurisdiction to an emergency responder must be included in the true and full value of assistance provided for purposes of reimbursement under RCW 38.56.070. [2011 c 79 § 5.]

**RCW 38.56.060 Emergency responder—Not an employee of a requesting member jurisdiction.** An emergency responder is not an employee of the requesting member jurisdiction and is not entitled to any right, privilege, or benefit of employment from the requesting member jurisdiction, including but not limited to, compensation, wages, salary, leave, pensions, health, or other advantage. [2011 c 79 § 6.]

**RCW 38.56.070 Reimbursement for assistance provided.** (1) A requesting member jurisdiction shall reimburse a responding member jurisdiction for the true and full value of all assistance provided under this chapter. However, if authorized by law, a responding member jurisdiction may donate assistance provided under this chapter to a requesting member jurisdiction.

(2) If a dispute regarding reimbursement arises between member jurisdictions, the member jurisdiction asserting the dispute shall provide written notice to the other identifying the reimbursement issues in dispute. If the dispute is not resolved within ninety days after receipt of the dispute notice by the other party, either party to the dispute may invoke binding arbitration to resolve the reimbursement dispute by giving written notice to the other party. Within thirty days after receipt of the notice invoking binding arbitration, each party shall furnish the other a list of acceptable arbitrators. The parties shall select an arbitrator; failing to agree on an arbitrator, each party shall select one arbitrator and the two arbitrators shall select a third arbitrator for an arbitration panel. Costs of the arbitration, including compensation for the arbitrator's services, must be borne equally by the parties participating in the arbitration and each party bears its own costs and expenses, including legal fees and witness expenses, in connection with the arbitration proceeding. [2011 c 79 § 7.]

**RCW 38.56.080 Emergency responder of a responding member jurisdiction—Tort liability or immunity.** For purposes of tort liability or immunity, an emergency responder of a responding member jurisdiction is considered an agent of the requesting member jurisdiction. No responding member jurisdiction or its officers or employees providing assistance under this chapter is liable for any act or omission while providing or attempting to provide assistance under this chapter in good faith. For purposes of this section, good faith does not include willful misconduct, gross negligence, or recklessness. [2011 c 79 § 8.]

**Chapter 38.60 RCW**  
**PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATORS**

**Sections**

- 38.60.010 Findings.
- 38.60.020 Definitions.
- 38.60.030 Certification board.
- 38.60.040 Certification board—Duties.
- 38.60.050 Certification board—Representation.
- 38.60.060 Limitation of liability.

**Chapter 38.60 RCW**  
**PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATORS**

**Sections**

38.60.010	Findings.
38.60.020	Definitions.
38.60.030	Certification board.
38.60.040	Certification board—Duties.
38.60.050	Certification board—Representation.
38.60.060	Limitation of liability.

**RCW 38.60.010 Findings.** (1) The legislature acknowledges that a primary responsibility of government is to ensure public safety and that almost always an emergency response begins with a request to 911 for assistance. Requests to 911 and subsequent emergency response communications are managed by public safety telecommunicator professionals. These first responders are essential workers who continue public service throughout the pandemic, who are essential to triage requests for emergency responses and provide lifesaving instructions and guidance to those who call 911, ensuring the appropriate response for the situation; law enforcement, behavioral health, fire, and emergency medical. The public safety telecommunicator also dispatches, tracks, processes, and transmits information from the public and continually communicates with responders providing an additional layer of safety. The legislature takes special note of the contributions made by public safety telecommunicators whose tasks are arduous and whose working conditions may be contributing to the high and often critical turnover among the principal cadre of professionals who receive and process requests from the public for emergency response and provide emergency communications with public safety responders.

(2) The legislature also recognizes that public safety telecommunicators are the only public safety professionals who are not required to be certified and do not have standard initial training requirements to perform their critical public safety function. Further, employers of public safety telecommunicators face challenges in attracting suitable candidates, training, and retaining of staff due to the high demand and high stress environment of this critical public safety profession.

(3) The legislature finds and declares that:

(a) Public safety telecommunicators must have a formal system of training, and certification and recertification standards, to ensure a standardized response is given when the public seeks assistance during an emergency and that standardized communications are in place to support public safety responders within Washington state.

(b) The quality of emergency response in most cases begins with the competence of public safety telecommunicators. To ensure the availability and quality of trained public safety telecommunicators, the legislature recognizes the need to adopt and implement standardized training programs and certification and recertification requirements. [2022 c 286 § 1.]

**RCW 38.60.020 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Certification board" means the voluntary public safety telecommunicator certification board.

(2) "Public safety answering point" includes primary public safety answering points that receive 911 calls directly from the public and secondary public safety answering points that receive 911 calls only on a transfer or relay basis from the primary public safety answering point.

(3) "Public safety telecommunicator" means a first responder working in a primary public safety answering point, regardless of title, who has successfully completed the training, certification, or recertification standards established in the state of Washington. This includes an employee of the state, a local public agency, or an independent governmental agency whose primary responsibility is to receive, process, transmit, or dispatch 911 emergency and nonemergency calls for law enforcement, fire, emergency medical, and other public safety services by telephone, radio, or other communication devices and includes an individual who promoted from this position and supervises individuals who perform these functions.

(4) "State-approved training program" means a public safety telecommunicator certified training program approved by the certification board to meet the requirements of a state-approved public safety telecommunicator training, certification, and recertification standards. For community colleges, vocational-technical institutes, skill centers, and secondary schools as described in chapter 28B.50 RCW, public safety telecommunicator certified training programs shall be approved by the certification board in cooperation with the board for community and technical colleges or the superintendent of public instruction. [2022 c 286 § 2.]

**RCW 38.60.030 Certification board.** The certification board is established in the state 911 coordination office to create a certification and training program for public safety telecommunicators throughout the state. [2022 c 286 § 3.]

**RCW 38.60.040 Certification board—Duties.** Duties of the certification board include:

(1) Adopting bylaws for the certification board;

(2) Adopting rules, with the advice and assistance of the 911 advisory committee, to implement the provisions of this chapter including, but not limited to, rules to implement a state-approved training program for process, policy, and procedure;

(3) Reviewing and approving state-approved training programs biennially. State-approved training programs should be consistent with industry standards;

(4) Setting all public safety telecommunicator certification, registration, and renewal fees, and to collect and deposit all such fees in the 911 account established under RCW 38.52.540; and

(5) Establishing recertification requirements. [2022 c 286 § 4.]



**RCW 38.60.050 Certification board—Representation.** The certification board shall represent diverse stakeholders of the 911 system and shall consist of the following volunteer members:

- (1) The chair or vice chair of the 911 advisory committee;
- (2) Two public safety answering point directors or 911 coordinators, one from the eastside and one from the westside of the Cascade mountains appointed by the 911 advisory committee;
- (3) Two labor union representatives from labor unions representing public safety telecommunicators;
- (4) One representative appointed by the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs;
- (5) One representative appointed by the Washington state fire chiefs association;
- (6) One representative from the Washington state association of counties appointed by the Washington state association of counties; and
- (7) Two public safety telecommunicators from a public safety answering point, one from the eastside and one from the westside of the Cascade mountains appointed by the 911 advisory committee. [2022 c 286 § 5.]

**RCW 38.60.060 Limitation of liability.** (1) No act or omission of any certified public safety telecommunicator or crisis call center staff or designated 988 contact hub staff related to the transfer of calls from the 911 line to the 988 crisis hotline or from the 988 crisis hotline to the 911 line, done or omitted in good faith, within the scope of the certified public safety telecommunicator's employment responsibilities with the public safety answering point and the crisis call center or designated 988 contact hub and in accordance with call system transfer protocols adopted by both the department of health and the emergency management division shall impose liability upon:

- (a) The certified public safety telecommunicator or the certified public safety telecommunicator's supervisor;
- (b) The public safety answering point or its officers, staff, or employees;
- (c) The clinical staff of the crisis call center or designated 988 contact hub or their clinical supervisors;
- (d) The crisis call center or designated 988 contact hub or its officers, staff, or employees; or
- (e) Any member of a mobile rapid response crisis team or community-based crisis team endorsed under RCW 71.24.903.

(2) This section shall not apply to any act or omission which constitutes either gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct. [2023 c 454 § 14.]