
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL NO. 2624

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1992 Regular Session

By House Committee on Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Orr, Mitchell, Wood, Belcher, R. Meyers, Anderson, Prince, Chandler, Wineberry, Bray, Paris and R. King)

Read first time 02/11/92.

1 AN ACT Relating to mobilization of fire service resources; and
2 adding a new chapter to Title 38 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Unless the context clearly requires
5 otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this
6 chapter.

7 (1) "Department" means the department of community development.

8 (2) "Director" means the direct of the department of community
9 development.

10 (3) "State fire marshal" means the assistant director of the
11 division of fire protection services in the department of community
12 development.

13 (4) "Fire chief" includes the chief officer of a statutorily
14 authorized fire agency, or the fire chief's authorized representative.

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

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

5 (6) "Mobilization" means that fire fighting resources beyond those
6 available through existing agreements will be requested and, when
7 available, sent to fight a fire that has or soon will exceed the
8 capabilities of available local resources. During a large scale fire
9 emergency, mobilization includes redistribution of regional or state-
10 wide fire fighting resources to either direct fire fighting assignments
11 or to assignment in communities where fire fighting resources are
12 needed. This chapter shall not reduce or suspend the authority or
13 responsibility of the department of natural resources under chapter
14 76.04 RCW.

15 (7) "Mutual aid" means emergency interagency assistance provided
16 without compensation under an agreement between jurisdictions under
17 chapter 39.34 RCW.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** Because of the possibility of the
19 occurrence of disastrous fires of unprecedented size and
20 destructiveness, the need to insure that the state is adequately
21 prepared to respond to such a fire, the need to establish a mechanism
22 and a procedure to provide for reimbursement to fire fighting agencies
23 that respond to help others in time of need, and generally to protect
24 the public peace, health, safety, lives, and property of the people of
25 Washington, it is hereby declared necessary to:

26 (1) Provide the policy and organizational structure for large-scale
27 mobilization of fire fighting resources in the state through creation
28 of the Washington state fire services mobilization plan;

29 (2) Confer upon the director the powers provided herein; and

1 (3) Provide a means for reimbursement to fire jurisdictions that
2 incur expenses when mobilized by the director under the Washington
3 state fire services mobilization plan.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** There is created the state fire defense
5 board consisting of the state fire marshal, a representative from the
6 department of natural resources appointed by the commissioner of public
7 lands, the assistant director of the emergency management division of
8 the department, and one representative selected by each regional fire
9 defense board in the state. Members of the state fire defense board
10 shall select from among themselves a chairperson. Members serving on
11 the board do so in a voluntary capacity and are not eligible for
12 reimbursement for meeting-related expenses from the state.

13 The state fire defense board shall develop and maintain the
14 Washington state fire services mobilization plan, which shall include
15 the procedures to be used during fire emergencies for coordinating
16 local, regional, and state fire jurisdiction resources. The Washington
17 state fire services mobilization plan shall be consistent with, and
18 made part of, the Washington state comprehensive emergency management
19 plan. The director shall review the fire services mobilization plan as
20 submitted by the state fire defense board, recommend changes that may
21 be necessary, and approve the fire services mobilization plan for
22 inclusion within the state comprehensive emergency management plan.

23 It is the responsibility of the director to mobilize jurisdictions
24 under the Washington state fire services mobilization plan. The state
25 fire marshal shall serve as the state fire resources coordinator when
26 the Washington state fire services mobilization plan is mobilized.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Regions within the state are initially
2 established as follows but may be adjusted as necessary by the
3 director:

4 (1) Northwest region - Whatcom, Skagit, Snohomish, San Juan, and
5 Island counties;

6 (2) Northeast region - Okanogan, Ferry, Stevens, Pend Oreille,
7 Spokane, and Lincoln counties;

8 (3) Olympic region - Clallam and Jefferson counties;

9 (4) South Puget Sound region - Kitsap, Mason, King, and Pierce
10 counties;

11 (5) Southeast region - Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas, Grant, Adams,
12 Whitman, Yakima, Klickitat, Benton, Franklin, Walla Walla, Columbia,
13 Garfield, and Asotin counties;

14 (6) Central region - Grays Harbor, Thurston, Pacific, and Lewis
15 counties; and

16 (7) Southwest region - Wahkiakum, Cowlitz, Clark, and Skamania
17 counties.

18 Within each of these regions there is created a regional fire
19 defense board. The regional fire defense boards shall consist of two
20 members from each county in the region. One member from each county
21 shall be appointed by the county fire chiefs' association or, in the
22 event there is no such county association, by the county's legislative
23 authority. Each county's office of emergency management or, in the
24 event there is no such office, the county's legislative authority shall
25 select the second representative to the regional board. The department
26 of natural resources fire control chief shall appoint a representative
27 from each department of natural resources region to serve as a member
28 of the appropriate regional fire defense board. Members of each
29 regional board will select a chairperson and secretary as officers.
30 Members serving on the regional boards do so in a voluntary capacity

1 and are not eligible for reimbursement for meeting-related expenses
2 from the state.

3 Regional defense boards shall develop regional fire service plans
4 that include provisions for organized fire agencies to respond across
5 municipal, county, or regional boundaries. Each regional plan shall be
6 consistent with the incident command system, the Washington state fire
7 services mobilization plan, and regional response plans already adopted
8 and in use in the state. The regional boards shall work with the
9 relevant local government entities to facilitate development of
10 intergovernmental agreements if any such agreements are required to
11 implement a regional fire service plan.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The department in consultation with the
13 office of financial management shall develop procedures to facilitate
14 reimbursement to jurisdictions from appropriate federal and state funds
15 when jurisdictions are mobilized by the director under the Washington
16 state fire services mobilization plan.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 1 through 5 of this act shall
18 constitute a new chapter in Title 38 RCW.