

HB 1039-S - DIGEST

(DIGEST OF PROPOSED 1ST SUBSTITUTE)

Finds that: (1) The threat of an incident caused by a chemical, biological, radioactive, nuclear, or explosive (CBRNE) agent occurring in the state poses a severe threat to the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the state of Washington. In order to mitigate any damage that may be caused by CBRNE incidents, it is necessary that the state have a coordinated and comprehensive plan to respond to these dangerous and deadly incidents;

(2) The current system of relying almost exclusively on local jurisdictions to respond to CBRNE incidents is inadequate because it stretches the capabilities of local jurisdictions, it lacks uniformity in training, equipment, and response standards, and it hinders the ability of jurisdictions to cooperate in the event of a catastrophic incident. Major portions of the state lack protection from CBRNE incidents because many local jurisdictions simply do not have the capabilities to respond to these incidents; and

(3) An active response capability will mitigate the need for large scale environmental cleanup efforts.

Requires the director of fire protection to establish and maintain a statewide CBRNE response program.

Creates the policy advisory group and the operations advisory group to assist the director of fire protection in implementing and managing the statewide CBRNE response program.

Creates the statewide CBRNE response account.

Makes an appropriation.