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**HOUSE BILL 1728**

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**State of Washington**

**68th Legislature**

**2023 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Donaghy and Rule

1 AN ACT Relating to creating a statewide resiliency program;  
2 adding a new section to chapter 38.52 RCW; and creating a new  
3 section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Washington state residents have been  
6 increasingly impacted by natural disasters such as floods,  
7 landslides, wildfires, earthquakes, and the COVID-19 pandemic and  
8 they continue to be at risk from these and other natural disasters,  
9 with communities of color and vulnerable populations  
10 disproportionately impacted. The legislature finds that it is  
11 critical to better prepare Washington for disasters and to mitigate  
12 the impacts with coordinated resiliency strategies. The legislature  
13 further finds a resilient Washington increases quality of life for  
14 Washingtonians while every one dollar spent on mitigation saves six  
15 dollars spent on recovery. To address this critical need, the  
16 legislature intends to implement a statewide resiliency program for  
17 the benefit of all Washingtonians while conserving expenditures by  
18 both public and private sectors.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 38.52  
20 RCW to read as follows:

1 (1) The emergency management division within the department shall  
2 develop and administer a statewide resiliency program. The program  
3 should include:

4 (a) Methods for ensuring ongoing coordination of state and local  
5 resiliency and response activities, including:

6 (i) Developing, administering, tracking, and communicating  
7 progress of overall resiliency efforts;

8 (ii) Coordinating funding to maximize federal, state, local, and  
9 private investments;

10 (iii) Serving as a public and private resiliency resource center;  
11 and

12 (iv) Enhancing interagency collaboration, education, and outreach  
13 programs;

14 (b) A coordinated long-term resiliency strategy for addressing  
15 the impacts of all hazards, both natural and human-caused, including:

16 (i) Developing, coordinating, and communicating resiliency  
17 initiatives and projects across state agencies and local governments,  
18 including initiatives and projects supporting climate resiliency;

19 (ii) Conducting policy research and recommendations related to  
20 enhancing resiliency;

21 (iii) Coordinating research, data collection, and analysis;

22 (iv) Researching economic tools to address resiliency; and

23 (v) Recommending investments to mitigate risks from all hazards;

24 and

25 (c) Support functions to agencies, departments, tribes, and other  
26 stakeholders to develop solutions that improve the resiliency of the  
27 state's waters, forests, and other vital ecosystems to the impacts of  
28 climate change, and increase their carbon pollution reduction  
29 capacity through sequestration, storage, and overall ecosystem  
30 integrity.

31 (2) For purposes of this section, "resiliency" means the ability  
32 to prepare, mitigate, plan for, withstand, recover from, and more  
33 successfully adapt to adverse events and changing conditions, and  
34 reorganize in an equitable manner that results in a new and better  
35 condition.

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