
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2320

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2018 Regular Session

By House Community Development, Housing & Tribal Affairs (originally sponsored by Representatives Reeves, Stanford, Bergquist, Tarleton, Slatter, Shea, Barkis, Senn, and Ryu; by request of Insurance Commissioner)

1 AN ACT Relating to the creation of a work group to study and make
2 recommendations on natural disaster mitigation and resiliency
3 activities; and adding new sections to chapter 48.02 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 48.02
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 Residents of this state have been impacted by natural disasters
8 such as floods, landslides, wildfires, and earthquakes and continue
9 to be at risk from these and other natural disasters. In 2016,
10 insured losses from natural disasters in the United States totaled
11 almost twenty-four billion dollars. In 2015, this state's wildfire
12 season was the largest in Washington state history, burning more than
13 one million acres and costing more than two hundred fifty-three
14 million dollars. In 2016, almost two hundred ninety-four thousand
15 acres burned in Washington state and there were more than four
16 hundred thirty national flood insurance program (nfip) claims filed,
17 totaling over seven million dollars. It is critical that more be done
18 to better prepare this state for disasters and to put in place
19 strategies to mitigate the impacts of the disasters. To address this
20 critical need, the legislature is creating a work group that will
21 review disaster mitigation and preparation projects in other states

1 and those currently being done in this state and make recommendations
2 for how this state's efforts to mitigate the impacts of natural
3 disasters can be expanded and coordinated and whether or not an
4 ongoing disaster resiliency program should be created.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 48.02
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 A working group to study and make recommendations on natural
8 disaster and resiliency activities is hereby created. The working
9 group membership shall be composed of:

10 (1) The insurance commissioner or his or her designee, who shall
11 be the chair of the working group;

12 (2) One member from each of the four major caucuses of the
13 legislature;

14 (3) A representative from the governor's resilient Washington
15 work group;

16 (4) A representative from the Washington state association of
17 counties;

18 (5) A representative from the association of Washington cities;

19 (6) A representative from the state building code council;

20 (7) The supervisor of the department of natural resources or his
21 or her designee;

22 (8) The director of the Washington state military department or
23 his or her designee;

24 (9) The superintendent of public instruction or his or her
25 designee;

26 (10) The director of the department of ecology or his or her
27 designee;

28 (11) The director of the department of commerce or his or her
29 designee;

30 (12) A representative from the Washington association of building
31 officials;

32 (13) Two representatives from the property and casualty insurance
33 industry, to be selected by the insurance commissioner or his or her
34 designee, through an application process; and

35 (14) Other state agency representatives or stakeholder group
36 representatives, at the discretion of the working group, for the
37 purpose of participating in specific topic discussions or
38 subcommittees.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 48.02
2 RCW to read as follows:
3 (1) The working group will engage in the following activities:
4 (a) Review disaster mitigation and resiliency activities being
5 done in this state by public and private entities;
6 (b) Review disaster mitigation and resiliency activities being
7 done in other states and at the federal level;
8 (c) Review information on uptake in this state for disaster-
9 related insurance, such as flood and earthquake;
10 (d) Review information on how other states are coordinating
11 disaster mitigation and resiliency work and the work of entities such
12 as the California earthquake authority;
13 (e) Review how other states and the federal government fund their
14 disaster mitigation and resiliency activities and programs;
15 (f) Make recommendations to the legislature and the office of the
16 insurance commissioner on:
17 (i) Whether this state should create an ongoing disaster
18 resiliency program;
19 (ii) What activities the program should engage in;
20 (iii) How the program should coordinate with state agencies and
21 other entities engaged in disaster mitigation and resiliency work;
22 (iv) Where the program should be housed; and
23 (v) How the program should be funded.
24 (2) The working group shall meet during the 2018 interim and make
25 their recommendations to the legislature by December 1, 2018.

--- END ---