
SENATE BILL 5198

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Senators Becker, Warnick, Fain, Bailey, and Brown

1 AN ACT Relating to fire suppression methodologies; and creating a
2 new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that the record
5 2015 fire season saw over one million acres burned across the state.
6 The legislature further finds that in addition to the devastating
7 effect on our land and economy, wildfires destroyed four hundred
8 ninety-nine structures, including three hundred seven primary
9 residences, twenty-one commercial structures, and one hundred
10 seventy-seven outbuildings. The legislature finds that the state must
11 employ the best firefighting techniques, products, and technologies
12 to prevent the unnecessary destruction of structures during future
13 wildfire incidents.

14 (2) By December 31, 2017, the department of natural resources
15 must report the following to the legislature:

16 (a) A complete list of the types of long-term fire retardants,
17 foams, and gels used by the department;

18 (b) An overview of the department's criteria in determining when,
19 where, and how to apply long-term fire retardants, foams, and gels;

1 (c) A list of each instance the department has used long-term
2 fire retardants, foams, and gels in fire suppression activities in
3 the last three years;

4 (d) A description of public outreach and education activities the
5 department has conducted relating to the use of foams or gels to
6 protect structures during wildfire incidents, if any;

7 (e) An analysis of national fire suppression best practices
8 relating to the use of long-term fire retardants, foams, and gels;

9 (f) An examination of how to update the department's policy on
10 the use of long-term fire retardants, foams, and gels to match the
11 best practices identified in (e) of this subsection; and

12 (g) Recommendations for any legislative actions necessary to
13 improve the protection of structures from wildfires.

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