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**SENATE BILL 5724**

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**State of Washington**

**68th Legislature**

**2023 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Van De Wege and Boehnke; by request of Washington State Patrol

1 AN ACT Relating to the director of fire protection's  
2 administration and reimbursement of fire service-related training  
3 programs; and amending RCW 43.43.934.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.43.934 and 2015 c 43 s 1 are each amended to read  
6 as follows:

7 The director of fire protection shall:

8 (1)(a)(i) With the state board for community and technical  
9 colleges, provide academic, vocational, and field training programs  
10 for the fire service; and (ii) with the state colleges and  
11 universities, provide instructional programs requiring advanced  
12 training, especially in command and management skills;

13 (b) Cooperate with the common schools, technical and community  
14 colleges, institutions of higher education, and any department or  
15 division of the state, or of any county or municipal corporation in  
16 establishing and maintaining instruction in fire service training and  
17 education in accordance with any act of congress and legislation  
18 enacted by the legislature in pursuance thereof and in establishing,  
19 building, and operating training and education facilities.

1 Industrial fire departments and private fire investigators may  
2 participate in training and education programs under this chapter for  
3 a reasonable fee established by rule;

4 (c) Develop and adopt a master plan for constructing, equipping,  
5 maintaining, and operating necessary fire service training and  
6 education facilities subject to the provisions of chapter 43.19 RCW;

7 (d) Develop and adopt a master plan for the purchase, lease, or  
8 other acquisition of real estate necessary for fire service training  
9 and education facilities in a manner provided by law; and

10 (e)(i) Develop and adopt a plan for the Washington state patrol  
11 fire training academy to deliver basic firefighter training and  
12 testing to all city fire departments, fire protection districts,  
13 regional fire protection service authorities, and other public fire  
14 agencies in the state. The plan required by this subsection (1)(e)  
15 must specify that the delivery of training and testing services will  
16 be provided:

17 (A) To recipients in the following order of priority:

18 (I) Volunteer departments;

19 (II) Combination departments; and

20 (III) Fire agencies that employ only career firefighters and fire  
21 officers; and

22 (B) By personnel of the fire training academy, either at the  
23 academy's facilities in North Bend, Washington, or regionally at  
24 local fire agencies.

25 (ii) ~~((A) In lieu of receiving training and testing services from~~  
26 ~~the fire training academy, city)) City fire departments, fire~~  
27 ~~protection districts, regional fire protection service authorities,~~  
28 ~~and other public fire agencies in the state may seek reimbursement~~  
29 ~~for their firefighter I training expenses in accordance with the~~  
30 ~~rules established by the Washington state patrol, director of fire~~  
31 ~~protection. ((The amount of reimbursement will be calculated on a per~~  
32 ~~capita basis. The per capita amount is equal to the three-year~~  
33 ~~statewide firefighter per capita average for the regional direct~~  
34 ~~delivery of training by the fire training academy. The three-year~~  
35 ~~statewide firefighter per capita average is calculated by dividing~~  
36 ~~the number of firefighters trained using the regional direct delivery~~  
37 ~~program during the three-year period into the total cost of providing~~  
38 ~~regional direct delivery during the same three-year period. The~~  
39 ~~regional direct delivery costs used for the basis of these~~  
40 ~~calculations does not include the costs of the fire training academy~~

1 ~~personnel used to coordinate the direct delivery programs, the~~  
2 ~~state's indirect costs, or any other indirect costs.~~

3 ~~(B) Prior to the implementation of the reimbursement provisions~~  
4 ~~in (e)(ii)(A) of this subsection, the amount of reimbursement for~~  
5 ~~city fire departments, fire protection districts, regional fire~~  
6 ~~protection service authorities, and other public fire agencies must~~  
7 ~~be not less than three dollars for every one hour of firefighter I~~  
8 ~~training, and may not exceed two hundred hours.)~~

9 (iii) Subject to approval by the director of fire protection, and  
10 in accordance with the plan required by this subsection (1)(e), the  
11 fire training academy facilities ~~((and programs))~~ must be made  
12 available at no cost to fire service youth programs. The goal of  
13 making these facilities ~~((and programs))~~ available is to increase  
14 enrollment of volunteer firefighters, and to improve gender,  
15 cultural, and ethnic diversity within the fire service.

16 (iv) For purposes of this subsection (1)(e), the following  
17 definitions apply:

18 (A) "Basic firefighter training and testing" means training and  
19 testing for firefighters that is up to and includes the requirements  
20 of firefighter I, as identified by the national fire protection  
21 association standard 1001;

22 (B) "Combination department" means a fire department with  
23 emergency service personnel comprising less than eighty-five percent  
24 of either volunteer or career membership;

25 (C) "Delivery of training" includes all resources, personnel, and  
26 equipment necessary to deliver training at the fire academy in North  
27 Bend, Washington, or regionally at local fire agencies; and

28 (D) "Volunteer department" means a fire department with volunteer  
29 emergency service personnel comprising eighty-five percent or greater  
30 of its department membership.

31 (2)(a) Promote mutual aid and disaster planning for fire services  
32 in this state;

33 (b) Assure the dissemination of information concerning the amount  
34 of fire damage including that damage caused by arson, and its causes  
35 and prevention; and

36 (c) Implement any legislation enacted by the legislature to meet  
37 the requirements of any acts of congress that apply to this section.

38 (3) In carrying out its statutory duties, the office of the state  
39 fire marshal shall give particular consideration to the appropriate  
40 roles to be played by the state and by local jurisdictions with fire

1 protection responsibilities. Any determinations on the division of  
2 responsibility shall be made in consultation with local fire  
3 officials and their representatives.

4 To the extent possible, the office of the state fire marshal  
5 shall encourage development of regional units along compatible  
6 geographic, population, economic, and fire risk dimensions. Such  
7 regional units may serve to: (a) Reinforce coordination among state  
8 and local activities in fire service training, reporting,  
9 inspections, and investigations; (b) identify areas of special need,  
10 particularly in smaller jurisdictions with inadequate resources; (c)  
11 assist the state in its oversight responsibilities; (d) identify  
12 funding needs and options at both the state and local levels; and (e)  
13 provide models for building local capacity in fire protection  
14 programs.

15 (4) The Washington state patrol, through the director of fire  
16 protection, may adopt rules necessary to carry out the purposes of  
17 this section.

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