
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6272

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1992 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Governmental Operations (originally sponsored by Senators McCaslin, Madsen, Sutherland, Matson and Roach)

Read first time 02/06/92.

1 AN ACT Relating to mobilization of fire service resources; and
2 adding new sections to chapter 38.52 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Unless the context clearly requires
5 otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this
6 chapter.

7 (1) "Director" means the director of the department of community
8 development.

9 (2) "State fire marshal" means the assistant director of the
10 division of fire protection services in the department of community
11 development.

12 (3) "Fire chief" includes the chief officer of a statutorily
13 authorized fire agency serving a jurisdiction, or the fire chief's
14 authorized representative. Also included are the chief of fire control

1 in the department of natural resources, and the department of natural
2 resources regional managers.

3 (4) "Jurisdiction" means the state, county, city, fire district,
4 port fire fighting units, or other public agencies covered by this
5 chapter.

6 (5) "Mobilization" means that fire fighting resources beyond those
7 available through existing agreements will be requested and, when
8 available, sent to fight a fire that has or soon will exceed the
9 available local resources. During a large scale fire emergency,
10 mobilization includes redistribution of either regional or state-wide
11 fire fighting resources, or both, to either direct fire fighting
12 assignments or to assignment in communities where the fire fighting
13 resources are exceeded. This chapter shall not reduce or suspend the
14 authority or responsibility of the department of natural resources
15 under chapter 76.04 RCW.

16 (6) "Mutual aid" means emergency interagency assistance provided
17 without compensation under an agreement between jurisdictions under
18 chapter 39.34 RCW.

19 (7) Regions shall be established or adjusted by the director as the
20 following:

21 (a) Northwest region - Whatcom, Skagit, Snohomish, San Juan, and
22 Island counties;

23 (b) Northeast region - Okanogan, Ferry, Stevens, Pend Oreille,
24 Spokane, and Lincoln counties;

25 (c) Olympic region - Clallam and Jefferson counties;

26 (d) South Puget Sound region - Kitsap, Mason, King, and Pierce
27 counties;

28 (e) Southeast region - Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas, Grant, Adams,
29 Whitman, Yakima, Klickitat, Benton, Franklin, Walla Walla, Columbia,
30 Garfield, and Asotin counties;

1 (f) Central region - Grays Harbor, Thurston, Pacific, and Lewis
2 counties; and

3 (g) Southwest region - Wahkiakum, Cowlitz, Clark, and Skamania
4 counties.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** Because of the existing and increasing
6 possibility of the occurrence of disastrous fires of unprecedented size
7 and destructiveness, and in order to ensure that the preparations of
8 this state are adequate to deal with these disasters, to ensure the
9 administration of state and federal programs providing disaster relief
10 to individuals, state agencies, local agencies, and generally to
11 protect the public peace, health, and safety, and to preserve the lives
12 and property of the people of the state, it is hereby declared to be
13 necessary:

14 (1) To provide the policy and organizational structure for the
15 large scale mobilization of fire fighting resources in the state
16 through the creation of the Washington state fire services mobilization
17 plan;

18 (2) To confer upon the director of community development the powers
19 provided herein; and

20 (3) To provide a means for reimbursement to fire jurisdictions that
21 incur expenses when mobilized by the director under the Washington
22 state fire mobilization plan.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The director may employ personnel
24 and make those expenditures within the appropriation therefor, or from
25 other funds made available for purposes of the Washington state fire
26 services mobilization plan, as may be necessary to carry out the
27 purposes of this chapter.

1 (2) The state fire marshal shall develop and maintain the
2 Washington state fire services mobilization plan, which shall include
3 the procedures to be used during fire emergencies for coordinating
4 local fire jurisdiction resources, as necessary, and the resources of
5 regional and state fire jurisdictions.

6 (3) The state fire marshal shall work cooperatively with the chief
7 of fire control in the department of natural resources to coordinate
8 the activities of all organizations for fire mobilization within the
9 state, and shall have the additional authority, duties, and
10 responsibilities authorized by this chapter.

11 (4) The state fire marshal shall serve as the state fire resources
12 coordinator when the Washington state fire services mobilization plan
13 is invoked.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** There is created the state fire defense
15 board comprised of the state fire marshal, who will chair the board,
16 the chief of fire control in the department of natural resources, the
17 assistant director of the department of community development emergency
18 management division, and regional fire resources coordinators. The
19 state fire defense board shall advise the director regarding the state
20 fire mobilization plan.

21 (1) There is created a regional fire defense board for each region
22 under section 1 of this act. The regional fire defense boards shall be
23 comprised of one representative from each county, appointed by the
24 director from recommendations submitted by local fire organizations
25 within the county. Board members will serve staggered, three-year
26 terms. Board members will have one vote. Members of each regional
27 board will select a chairperson and secretary as officers. The state
28 fire marshal or a designee will serve as a member of each regional fire
29 defense board. The chief of fire control in the department of natural

1 resources shall appoint a representative from each department of
2 natural resources region to serve as a member of each regional fire
3 defense board. Each regional fire defense board will select the
4 regional fire resources coordinator for that region. The fire
5 resources coordinator serves at the pleasure of the regional fire
6 defense board. Regional fire defense boards will develop regional fire
7 service plans that include provisions for organized fire agencies to
8 respond across municipal, county, or regional boundaries. Each
9 regional fire defense board will develop and implement the
10 intergovernmental agreements required to implement these plans.

11 (2) For the purposes of sections 1 through 6 of this act, the
12 director, in cooperation with the fire protection policy board, may
13 adopt and amend rules under chapter 34.05 RCW setting forth the duties
14 and responsibilities of the following:

15 (a) The state fire marshal;

16 (b) The assistant director of the division of emergency management
17 in the department of community development;

18 (c) The Washington state fire defense board; and

19 (d) The regional fire defense boards.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The Washington state fire mobilization
21 account is created as a separate account in the state treasury. All
22 receipts from legislative appropriations for the purposes of sections
23 3 through 5 of this act shall be deposited into the account.
24 Expenditures from the account may be used only for reimbursement of
25 expenses caused by the mobilization of fire fighting resources. Only
26 the state treasurer or the treasurer's designee may authorize
27 expenditures from the account.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Each year the director shall prepare a
2 request for appropriation to the Washington state fire mobilization
3 account those moneys necessary to reimburse emergency fire suppression
4 costs incurred under sections 3 through 5 of this act.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Sections 1 through 6 of this act are
6 each added to chapter 38.52 RCW.