
HOUSE BILL 2484

State of Washington 56th Legislature 2000 Regular Session
By Representatives Carrell, Cooper, Huff, Esser, Cox, Lambert,
Alexander and Ruderman

Read first time 01/14/2000. Referred to Committee on State Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to the state fire protection policy board; amending
2 RCW 43.43.930; reenacting and amending RCW 43.43.934; adding a new
3 section to chapter 43.43 RCW; creating a new section; and providing an
4 expiration date.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.43.930 and 1995 c 369 s 14 are each amended to read
7 as follows:

8 The legislature finds that fire protection services at the state
9 level are provided by different, independent state agencies. This has
10 resulted in a lack of a comprehensive state-level focus for state fire
11 protection services, funding, and policy. The legislature further
12 finds that the paramount duty of the state in fire protection services
13 is to enhance the capacity of all local jurisdictions to assure that
14 their personnel with fire suppression, prevention, inspection, origin
15 and cause, and arson investigation responsibilities are adequately
16 trained to discharge their responsibilities. It is the intent of the
17 legislature to consolidate fire protection services into a single state
18 agency and to create a state board with the responsibility of (1)
19 establishing a comprehensive state policy regarding fire protection

1 services and (2) advising the chief of the Washington state patrol and
2 the director of fire protection on matters relating to their duties
3 under state law. It is also the intent of the legislature that the
4 fire protection services program created herein will assist local fire
5 protection agencies in program development without encroaching upon
6 their historic autonomy and will promote the cost-effective and
7 efficient delivery of fire protection services by state and local fire
8 protection agencies. It is the further intent of the legislature that
9 the fire protection services program be implemented incrementally to
10 assure a smooth transition, to build local, regional, and state
11 capacity, and to avoid undue burdens on jurisdictions with limited
12 resources.

13 **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.43.934 and 1999 c 117 s 1 and 1999 c 24 s 3 are
14 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

15 Except for matters relating to the statutory duties of the chief of
16 the Washington state patrol that are to be carried out through the
17 director of fire protection, the board shall have the responsibility of
18 developing a comprehensive state policy regarding fire protection
19 services. In carrying out its duties, the board shall:

20 (1)(a) Adopt a state fire training and education master plan that
21 allows to the maximum feasible extent for negotiated agreements: (i)
22 With the state board for community and technical colleges to provide
23 academic, vocational, and field training programs for the fire service
24 and (ii) with the higher education coordinating board and the state
25 colleges and universities to provide instructional programs requiring
26 advanced training, especially in command and management skills;

27 (b) Adopt minimum standards for each level of responsibility among
28 personnel with fire suppression, prevention, inspection, and
29 investigation responsibilities that assure continuing assessment of
30 skills and are flexible enough to meet emerging technologies. With
31 particular respect to training for fire investigations, the master plan
32 shall encourage cross training in appropriate law enforcement skills.
33 To meet special local needs, fire agencies may adopt more stringent
34 requirements than those adopted by the state;

35 (c) Cooperate with the common schools, technical and community
36 colleges, institutions of higher education, and any department or
37 division of the state, or of any county or municipal corporation in
38 establishing and maintaining instruction in fire service training and

1 education in accordance with any act of congress and legislation
2 enacted by the legislature in pursuance thereof and in establishing,
3 building, and operating training and education facilities.

4 Industrial fire departments and private fire investigators may
5 participate in training and education programs under this chapter for
6 a reasonable fee established by rule;

7 (d) Develop and adopt a master plan for constructing, equipping,
8 maintaining, and operating necessary fire service training and
9 education facilities subject to the provisions of chapter 43.19 RCW;

10 (e) Develop and adopt a master plan for the purchase, lease, or
11 other acquisition of real estate necessary for fire service training
12 and education facilities in a manner provided by law; and

13 (f) Develop and adopt a plan with a goal of providing training at
14 the level of fire fighter one, as defined by the board, to all fire
15 fighters in the state. The plan will include a reimbursement for fire
16 protection districts and city fire departments of not less than two
17 dollars for every hour of fire fighter one training. The Washington
18 state patrol shall not provide reimbursement for more than one hundred
19 fifty hours of fire fighter one training for each fire fighter trained.

20 (2) In addition to its responsibilities for fire service training,
21 the board shall:

22 (a) Adopt a state fire protection master plan;

23 (b) Monitor fire protection in the state and develop objectives and
24 priorities to improve fire protection for the state's citizens
25 including: (i) The comprehensiveness of state and local inspections
26 required by law for fire and life safety; (ii) the level of skills and
27 training of inspectors, as well as needs for additional training;
28 ((and)) (iii) the efforts of local, regional, and state inspection
29 agencies to improve coordination and reduce duplication among
30 inspection efforts; and (iv) programs or processes to improve the cost-
31 effective and efficient delivery of fire protection services;

32 (c) Establish and promote state arson control programs and ensure
33 development of local arson control programs;

34 (d) Provide representation for local fire protection services to
35 the governor in state-level fire protection planning matters such as,
36 but not limited to, hazardous materials control;

37 (e) Recommend to the adjutant general rules on minimum information
38 requirements of automatic location identification for the purposes of
39 enhanced 911 emergency service;

1 (f) Seek and solicit grants, gifts, bequests, devises, and matching
2 funds for use in furthering the objectives and duties of the board, and
3 establish procedures for administering them;

4 (g) Promote mutual aid and disaster planning for fire services in
5 this state;

6 (h) Assure the dissemination of information concerning the amount
7 of fire damage including that damage caused by arson, and its causes
8 and prevention; and

9 (i) Implement any legislation enacted by the legislature to meet
10 the requirements of any acts of congress that apply to this section.

11 (3) In carrying out its statutory duties, the board shall give
12 particular consideration to the appropriate roles to be played by the
13 state and by local jurisdictions with fire protection responsibilities.
14 Any determinations on the division of responsibility shall be made in
15 consultation with local fire officials and their representatives.

16 To the extent possible, the board shall encourage development of
17 regional units along compatible geographic, population, economic, and
18 fire risk dimensions. Such regional units may serve to: (a) Reinforce
19 coordination among state and local activities in fire service training,
20 reporting, inspections, and investigations; (b) identify areas of
21 special need, particularly in smaller jurisdictions with inadequate
22 resources; (c) assist the state in its oversight responsibilities; (d)
23 identify funding needs and options at both the state and local levels;
24 and (e) provide models for building local capacity in fire protection
25 programs.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 43.43 RCW
27 to read as follows:

28 (1) In addition to the duties specified in RCW 43.43.934, the state
29 fire protection policy board shall develop, in conjunction with
30 representatives of state and local fire protection agencies, uniform
31 standards for fire protection vehicles and equipment.

32 (2) After establishing the uniform standards required by subsection
33 (1) of this section, the state fire protection policy board shall
34 develop, in conjunction with representatives of state and local fire
35 protection agencies, a proposal or proposals for consolidated purchases
36 of fire protection vehicles and equipment based on the uniform
37 standards. The state fire protection policy board's proposal or
38 proposals shall:

1 (a) Create a mechanism for the state to coordinate purchases by
2 state and local fire protection agencies of fire protection vehicles
3 and equipment based on the uniform standards; and

4 (b) Allow for consolidated purchases of fire protection vehicles
5 and equipment based on the uniform standards to reduce costs for
6 purchases by individual state and local fire protection agencies.

7 (3) By January 1, 2001, the state fire protection policy board
8 shall submit to the legislature:

9 (a) A report on the development of uniform standards and proposals
10 for consolidated purchases as required by subsections (1) and (2) of
11 this section; and

12 (b) Recommendations for any legislative changes necessary to
13 implement programs or processes establishing uniform standards and
14 consolidated purchases as specified in subsections (1) and (2) of this
15 section.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** If specific funding for the purposes of this
17 act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not provided by
18 June 30, 2000, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act is null and
19 void.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Section 3 of this act expires July 1, 2001.

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