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HOUSE BILL 2853

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State of Washington

57th Legislature

2002 Regular Session

By Representatives Morris, Hurst, Schmidt, Barlean, Buck, Simpson, Schual-Berke, Cooper, Haigh, Benson, Ballasiotes, O'Brien, Anderson, Chase, Upthegrove, Linville and Rockefeller

Read first time 01/30/2002. Referred to Committee on Select Committee on Community Security.

1 AN ACT Relating to emergencies involving critical infrastructure  
2 arising from terrorist acts; adding a new section to chapter 38.52 RCW;  
3 and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** After the tragic events of September 11,  
6 2001, the legislature recognizes that the state's and the region's  
7 security, economic prosperity, and social well-being depend on the  
8 reliable functioning of increasingly complex infrastructures. The  
9 legislature further recognizes that it is the government's  
10 responsibility to participate in and facilitate the development of a  
11 regional approach to protecting this state's and the region's critical  
12 infrastructures. Because of mutual dependence and the increasing  
13 interconnectedness of infrastructures for energy systems, water  
14 systems, transportation systems, and communications systems, these  
15 infrastructures may be vulnerable in ways not yet recognized. Many of  
16 these facilities are privately owned and operated. In developing a  
17 coordinated regional approach to protecting critical infrastructures,  
18 it is important to include a broad set of viewpoints and expertise from  
19 both the public and private sector.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    A new section is added to chapter 38.52 RCW  
2 to read as follows:

3        (1) The emergency management council must identify infrastructure  
4 in Washington in cooperation with both the public and private sector  
5 that is critical to regional economic stability and security. As part  
6 of its effort to identify critical infrastructure, the council must  
7 develop methods to assess the vulnerability of the various critical  
8 infrastructures and to prioritize those infrastructures most in need of  
9 protection.        The council will report its conclusions and  
10 recommendations to the governor and the appropriate committees of the  
11 legislature by December 1, 2002.

12        (2) The emergency management council must facilitate and  
13 participate in efforts to develop regional plans for management and  
14 restoration of critical functions.        Participation may require  
15 coordination with other states, federal agencies, and neighboring  
16 nations.

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