
HOUSE BILL 3069

State of Washington 61st Legislature 2010 Regular Session

By Representatives Roach, Hurst, Dammeier, McCune, Morrell, and Wallace

Read first time 01/22/10. Referred to Committee on Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness.

1 AN ACT Relating to emergency flooding preparedness and response in
2 Pierce county; adding a new section to chapter 38.52 RCW; making an
3 appropriation; and declaring an emergency.

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

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

7 (1) The legislature finds that recent flooding events over the last
8 several years have put citizens and businesses in devastating
9 situations that have resulted in extreme economic loss. This is
10 particularly critical near the perimeters of rivers and the low-lying
11 areas of Pierce county. While it is important for the state to provide
12 public safety and emergency response during an emergency resulting from
13 a natural disaster, it is equally important to provide emergency
14 preparedness and disaster mitigation information prior to an emergency,
15 and recovery and disaster mitigation help after an emergency; all of
16 which will contribute to making the public more prepared during an
17 emergency response.

18 (2) Washington state's topography, geography, location, and history
19 show that certain areas of the state are at particular risk to both

1 natural disasters and human-caused disasters. The economic impact from
2 the 2007 flood disasters alone in Washington were estimated at over
3 five hundred million dollars. Winter weather conditions and water
4 levels near such Pierce county rivers as the Puyallup, White,
5 Nisqually, and Carbon rivers, the Carbon river valley, as well as the
6 creeks and rivers near the base of Mount Rainier alone provide the
7 possibility of sudden flood conditions on any given day in parts of
8 Pierce county. These changes may include rapidly rising water, river
9 flooding, widespread inundation, road closures, utility disruptions,
10 loss of homes, and the loss and closure of many businesses in the
11 Sumner, Orting, Milton, McMillan, and Wilkeson areas located in Pierce
12 county. Severe flooding has the potential to damage businesses
13 throughout the state and the western United States. In response,
14 Washington state and local governments have implemented all hazards
15 emergency management and disaster response plans. However, recent
16 studies have revealed the lack of a secure funding source that impedes
17 Pierce county's ability to fully integrate and coordinate comprehensive
18 disaster preparedness planning.

19 (3) Recognizing that all disasters are local disasters, the
20 legislature intends to strengthen emergency response, mitigation,
21 preparation, and coordination by establishing a source of funding for
22 flood control and relocation of those private citizens and businesses
23 that may be displaced during a flood disaster.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The sum of ten million dollars, or as
25 much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the biennium
26 ending June 30, 2011, from the state building construction account to
27 the Washington military department, working in cooperation with the
28 flood division of the department of ecology, the Pierce county
29 emergency management department, and other respective local
30 governments, as appropriate, to participate in flood hazard mitigation
31 and response projects for the Pierce county area.

32 (2) The Washington military department shall administer the Pierce
33 county flood assistance funds and establish rules for its
34 administration in consultation with the emergency management council
35 and the Washington state emergency management association. The
36 Washington military department shall use the ten million dollars in
37 appropriated funding for relocation costs (including, but not limited

1 to, land acquisition) of public facilities, infrastructure, and
2 citizens and businesses that are displaced by Pierce county flooding
3 conditions.

4 (3) Projects funded under this section shall include, but need not
5 be limited to, projects that will promote neighborhood level public
6 education on disaster preparedness.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act is necessary for the immediate
8 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
9 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
10 immediately.

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