
SENATE BILL 5337

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By Senators Jacobsen and Shin

Read first time 01/20/09. Referred to Committee on Government Operations & Elections.

1 AN ACT Relating to animal emergency operations; adding a new
2 section to chapter 38.52 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

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

6 (1) The Washington state military department's emergency management
7 division, in cooperation with county and local governments, shall
8 prepare, as part of the state comprehensive emergency management plan,
9 animal emergency planning guidance for local jurisdictions that
10 provides for the evacuation, transportation, and temporary sheltering
11 of pets and service animals as defined in RCW 70.84.021 during a major
12 disaster or an emergency.

13 (2) The division, in developing the guidance, shall consider:

14 (a) Allowing owners of service animals to be evacuated,
15 transported, and sheltered with or near their service animals;

16 (b) Establishing a sufficient number of evacuation shelters
17 equipped to temporarily shelter pets and service animals in close
18 proximity to a human sheltering facility;

1 (c) Allowing owners and their pets to be evacuated together,
2 whenever possible, provided that human life is not endangered;

3 (d) Transporting pets or service animals, in cages or carriers that
4 safely and securely confine the animals, in an impending major disaster
5 or emergency provided that such transportation does not endanger human
6 life;

7 (e) Recommending that animal shelters, humane societies, veterinary
8 offices, boarding kennels, breeders, grooming facilities, animal
9 testing facilities, and any other entity that normally houses pets or
10 service animals create evacuation plans for the animals housed at their
11 facilities;

12 (f) Recommending guidance for holding periods for pets or service
13 animals that are sheltered during a major disaster or an emergency; and

14 (g) Encouraging local jurisdictions to create an educational
15 campaign for owners of pets or service animals that will encourage
16 owners to plan for and incorporate their animals in the owners'
17 personal plans in the event of a major disaster or an emergency.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The code reviser shall alphabetize and
19 renumber the definitions in RCW 38.52.010.

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