
HOUSE BILL 1127

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2013 Regular Session

By Representatives Klippert, Goodman, Warnick, Kristiansen, Van De Wege, and Ryu

Read first time 01/16/13. Referred to Committee on Public Safety.

1 AN ACT Relating to prefire mitigation; amending RCW 43.43.934; and
2 creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that wildfire
5 occurrence, fire intensity, and values at risk have continued to
6 increase across the state in recent years. Three of the primary causal
7 factors behind these increases are population growth, changes in land
8 use, and weather patterns and drought. The 2012 wildfire season was
9 one of the worst in history and caused untold millions of dollars'
10 worth of fire-related damages. Costs associated with ongoing fire
11 resource deployment, state fire mobilization, as well as lingering air
12 quality issues and freight delay due to road closures, have added up to
13 one of the costliest fire seasons on record.

14 The legislature intends to help limit the scope of future wildfires
15 by establishing a statewide prefire mitigation plan to be overseen by
16 the office of the state fire marshal. This plan must provide for
17 coordination with local fire departments to develop individualized
18 community-wide protection plans that include public education such as

1 firewise, partnership building, and personal wildfire action plans in
2 the event of a wildfire.

3 **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.43.934 and 2012 c 229 s 818 are each amended to
4 read as follows:

5 (1) The director of fire protection shall:

6 ~~((1))~~(a)(i)(A) With the state board for community and technical
7 colleges, provide academic, vocational, and field training programs for
8 the fire service; and ~~((ii))~~ (B) with the state colleges and
9 universities, provide instructional programs requiring advanced
10 training, especially in command and management skills;

11 ~~((b))~~ (ii) Cooperate with the common schools, technical and
12 community colleges, institutions of higher education, and any
13 department or division of the state, or of any county or municipal
14 corporation in establishing and maintaining instruction in fire service
15 training and education in accordance with any act of congress and
16 legislation enacted by the legislature in pursuance thereof and in
17 establishing, building, and operating training and education
18 facilities.

19 Industrial fire departments and private fire investigators may
20 participate in training and education programs under this chapter for
21 a reasonable fee established by rule;

22 ~~((c))~~ (iii) Develop and adopt a master plan for constructing,
23 equipping, maintaining, and operating necessary fire service training
24 and education facilities subject to the provisions of chapter ~~((43.19))~~
25 39.26 RCW;

26 ~~((d))~~ (iv) Develop and adopt a master plan for the purchase,
27 lease, or other acquisition of real estate necessary for fire service
28 training and education facilities in a manner provided by law; and

29 ~~((e))~~ (v) Develop and adopt a plan with a goal of providing
30 firefighter one and wildland training to all firefighters in the state.
31 Wildland training reimbursement will be provided if a fire protection
32 district or a city fire department has and is fulfilling their interior
33 attack policy or if they do not have an interior attack policy. The
34 plan will include a reimbursement for fire protection districts and
35 city fire departments of not less than three dollars for every hour of
36 firefighter one or wildland training. The Washington state patrol

1 shall not provide reimbursement for more than two hundred hours of
2 firefighter one or wildland training for each firefighter trained(~~(-)~~);

3 ~~((2)(a))~~ (b)(i) Promote mutual aid and disaster planning for fire
4 services in this state;

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

8 ~~((e))~~ (iii) Implement any legislation enacted by the legislature
9 to meet the requirements of any acts of congress that apply to this
10 section(~~(-)~~);

11 ~~((3))~~ (c)(i) Develop a statewide plan for prefire mitigation by
12 adopting by rule the principles and tenets of the Ready Set Go program
13 developed by the international association of fire chiefs. The rules
14 must require coordination with local fire departments to develop
15 individualized community-wide protection plans that include public
16 education such as firewise, partnership building, and personal wildfire
17 action plans in the event of a wildfire.

18 (ii) The office of the state fire marshal shall work with the state
19 building code council to identify potential barriers to, and encourage
20 adoption of, the international wildland urban interface code.

21 (iii) The wildfire prevention account is hereby created in the
22 custody of the state treasurer. The account shall consist of: (A) All
23 bequests, fees, gifts, emoluments, or donations given or paid into the
24 account; (B) five percent of all moneys received by the state from
25 taxes on fire insurance premiums under RCW 48.14.020; and (C) interest
26 on the investments of the account. Expenditures from the account may
27 be used only for prefire mitigation efforts as described in this
28 chapter and any rules adopted under this chapter. Only the director of
29 state fire protection or the director's designee may authorize
30 expenditures from the account. The account is subject to allotment
31 procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but an appropriation is not
32 required for expenditures.

33 (2) In carrying out its statutory duties, the office of the state
34 fire marshal shall give particular consideration to the appropriate
35 roles to be played by the state and by local jurisdictions with fire
36 protection responsibilities. Any determinations on the division of
37 responsibility shall be made in consultation with local fire officials
38 and their representatives.

1 To the extent possible, the office of the state fire marshal shall
2 encourage development of regional units along compatible geographic,
3 population, economic, and fire risk dimensions. Such regional units
4 may serve to: (a) Reinforce coordination among state and local
5 activities in fire service training, reporting, inspections, and
6 investigations; (b) identify areas of special need, particularly in
7 smaller jurisdictions with inadequate resources; (c) assist the state
8 in its oversight responsibilities; (d) identify funding needs and
9 options at both the state and local levels; and (e) provide models for
10 building local capacity in fire protection programs.

11 (3) "Firewise," for purpose of this chapter, means the firewise
12 communities program developed by the national fire protection
13 association, which encourages local solutions for wildfire safety by
14 involving homeowners, community leaders, planners, developers,
15 firefighters, and others in the effort to protect people and property
16 from wildfire risks.

--- END ---