
SENATE BILL 6553

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2016 Regular Session

By Senators Liiias, Roach, and McCoy

Read first time 01/26/16. Referred to Committee on Government Operations & Security.

1 AN ACT Relating to improving emergency preparedness by expanding
2 continuity of operations planning; amending RCW 38.52.030; adding a
3 new section to chapter 38.52 RCW; and providing an effective date.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 38.52.030 and 2015 c 61 s 3 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 (1) The director may employ such personnel and may make such
8 expenditures within the appropriation therefor, or from other funds
9 made available for purposes of emergency management, as may be
10 necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter.

11 (2) The director, subject to the direction and control of the
12 governor, shall be responsible to the governor for carrying out the
13 program for emergency management of this state. The director shall
14 coordinate the activities of all organizations for emergency
15 management within the state, and shall maintain liaison with and
16 cooperate with emergency management agencies and organizations of
17 other states and of the federal government, and shall have such
18 additional authority, duties, and responsibilities authorized by this
19 chapter, as may be prescribed by the governor.

20 (3) The director shall develop and maintain a comprehensive, all-
21 hazard emergency plan for the state which shall include an analysis

1 of the natural, technological, or human caused hazards which could
2 affect the state of Washington, and shall include the procedures to
3 be used during emergencies for coordinating local resources, as
4 necessary, and the resources of all state agencies, departments,
5 commissions, and boards. The comprehensive emergency management plan
6 shall direct the department in times of state emergency to administer
7 and manage the state's emergency operations center. This will include
8 representation from all appropriate state agencies and be available
9 as a single point of contact for the authorizing of state resources
10 or actions, including emergency permits. The comprehensive emergency
11 management plan must specify the use of the incident command system
12 for multiagency/multijurisdiction operations. The comprehensive, all-
13 hazard emergency plan authorized under this subsection may not
14 include preparation for emergency evacuation or relocation of
15 residents in anticipation of nuclear attack. This plan shall be known
16 as the comprehensive emergency management plan.

17 (4) In accordance with the comprehensive emergency management
18 plans and the programs for the emergency management of this state,
19 the director shall procure supplies and equipment, institute training
20 programs and public information programs, and shall take all other
21 preparatory steps, including the partial or full mobilization of
22 emergency management organizations in advance of actual disaster, to
23 insure the furnishing of adequately trained and equipped forces of
24 emergency management personnel in time of need.

25 (5) The director shall make such studies and surveys of the
26 industries, resources, and facilities in this state as may be
27 necessary to ascertain the capabilities of the state for emergency
28 management, and shall plan for the most efficient emergency use
29 thereof.

30 (6) The emergency management council shall advise the director on
31 all aspects of the communications and warning systems and facilities
32 operated or controlled under the provisions of this chapter.

33 (7) The director, through the state enhanced 911 coordinator,
34 shall coordinate and facilitate implementation and operation of a
35 statewide enhanced 911 emergency communications network.

36 (8) The director shall appoint a state coordinator of search and
37 rescue operations to coordinate those state resources, services and
38 facilities (other than those for which the state director of
39 aeronautics is directly responsible) requested by political
40 subdivisions in support of search and rescue operations, and on

1 request to maintain liaison with and coordinate the resources,
2 services, and facilities of political subdivisions when more than one
3 political subdivision is engaged in joint search and rescue
4 operations.

5 (9) The director, subject to the direction and control of the
6 governor, shall prepare and administer a state program for emergency
7 assistance to individuals within the state who are victims of a
8 natural, technological, or human caused disaster, as defined by RCW
9 38.52.010(5). Such program may be integrated into and coordinated
10 with disaster assistance plans and programs of the federal government
11 which provide to the state, or through the state to any political
12 subdivision thereof, services, equipment, supplies, materials, or
13 funds by way of gift, grant, or loan for purposes of assistance to
14 individuals affected by a disaster. Further, such program may
15 include, but shall not be limited to, grants, loans, or gifts of
16 services, equipment, supplies, materials, or funds of the state, or
17 any political subdivision thereof, to individuals who, as a result of
18 a disaster, are in need of assistance and who meet standards of
19 eligibility for disaster assistance established by the department of
20 social and health services: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That nothing herein
21 shall be construed in any manner inconsistent with the provisions of
22 Article VIII, section 5 or section 7 of the Washington state
23 Constitution.

24 (10) The director shall appoint a state coordinator for
25 radioactive and hazardous waste emergency response programs. The
26 coordinator shall consult with the state radiation control officer in
27 matters relating to radioactive materials. The duties of the state
28 coordinator for radioactive and hazardous waste emergency response
29 programs shall include:

30 (a) Assessing the current needs and capabilities of state and
31 local radioactive and hazardous waste emergency response teams on an
32 ongoing basis;

33 (b) Coordinating training programs for state and local officials
34 for the purpose of updating skills relating to emergency mitigation,
35 preparedness, response, and recovery;

36 (c) Utilizing appropriate training programs such as those offered
37 by the federal emergency management agency, the department of
38 transportation and the environmental protection agency; and

39 (d) Undertaking other duties in this area that are deemed
40 appropriate by the director.

1 (11) The director is responsible to the governor to lead the
2 development and management of a program for interagency coordination
3 and prioritization of continuity of operations planning by state
4 agencies and school districts. Each state agency and school district
5 is responsible for developing and submitting to the director an
6 organizational continuity of operations plan that is updated and
7 exercised annually in compliance with the program for interagency
8 coordination of continuity of operations planning.

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

11 The director, or the director's designee, in consultation with
12 the emergency management council, may:

13 (1) Develop model continuity of operations plans for use by state
14 agencies and school districts;

15 (2) Develop a program to assist state agencies and school
16 districts in developing continuity of operations plans.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Section 1 of this act takes effect January
18 1, 2018.

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