

# FINAL BILL REPORT

## ESHB 2010

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Synopsis as Enacted

**Brief Description:** Addressing homelessness in wildfire areas.

**Sponsors:** House Committee on Community Development, Housing & Tribal Affairs (originally sponsored by Representatives Maycumber, Dent, Blake, Kretz, Dye and Manweller).

**House Committee on Community Development, Housing & Tribal Affairs**  
**Senate Committee on Natural Resources & Parks**  
**Senate Committee on Ways & Means**

### **Background:**

#### State Fire Prevention and Response.

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is the lead state entity responsible for forest fire prevention and response on both state-owned and private forest land in Washington. The DNR's role is to assume direct charge of and supervision of all matters pertaining to forest fires. The DNR has the authority to enter into cooperative agreements or contracts with local governments, other state agencies, and the federal government to provide fire services on land they are responsible for protecting or managing. The DNR provides a number of wildfire prevention and preparedness resources to communities at risk for wildfires, including working with local fire districts, conservation districts, and counties through the Firewise Communities Program (Firewise) and connecting residents with the Ready, Set, Go Program.

#### Sale and Exchange of State Surplus Personal Property.

The Department of Enterprise Services (DES) is authorized to sell or exchange personal property that belongs to the state if the agency having custody of the property has no further use of the property. The proceeds of the sale of the property are deposited into the fund from which the property was originally purchased or the State General Fund if the original fund no longer exists.

Certain exceptions and limitations apply to the sale or exchange of personal property by the DES, including providing state agencies the first right of refusal of state surplus personal property before property is made available for sale to the general public. The DES may dispose of surplus property without prior notice to state agencies if the Director of the DES determines the disposal is in the best interest of the state. The DES is required to maintain a

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record of any surplus property disposed of including the date of sale, method of disposal, identity of recipient, and approximate value. Additionally, a state agency with surplus property valued at less than \$500 may transfer the surplus property to another state agency without charging fair market value and must maintain adequate records of the transfer to comply with agency inventory procedures and state audit requirements.

#### The State Homeless Housing Program.

The Homeless Housing and Assistance Act directs the Department of Commerce to develop a statewide homeless housing program. The Department of Commerce must implement the program through a 10-year strategic plan with the goal of reducing homelessness by 50 percent in the state, and within each county, by 2015. Local governments must also develop their own 10-year homeless housing plans in coordination with the statewide plan.

#### **Summary:**

Subject to availability of appropriated funds, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) must provide funds to counties that are located east of the crest of the Cascade mountain range, share a common border with Canada, and have a population of 100,000 or less for radio communication equipment and to their fire protection service providers to provide residential wildfire risk reduction activities. Fire protection service providers include:

- fire departments;
- fire districts;
- emergency management services; and
- regional fire protection service authorities.

Wildfire risk reduction activities include:

- education and outreach;
- technical assistance;
- fuel mitigation; and
- other residential risk reduction measures.

Funds received by these counties are intended to prevent homelessness and to strengthen the capacity of local jurisdictions to control risk to life and property that may result from wildfires. The DNR must prioritize funding for qualifying counties serving a disproportionately higher percentage of low-income residents located in areas with high risk of wildfires and whose fire protection service providers have a shortage of reliable fire service equipment and resources.

"Low income" means the adjusted gross income of the resident is at 80 percent or less of the median income adjusted for family size, as most recently determined by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development for the county in which the housing is located.

The DNR is authorized to transfer ownership of depreciated firefighting vehicles and related equipment to local fire districts in wildfire prone areas of the state, as determined by the DNR and where the median household income is below the state average. The vehicle and equipment transfers are exempt from requirements the DES must follow for the sale, exchange, or disposal of state property.

The DNR must provide notice, at least 10 days prior to a transfer, to the chairs and ranking members of the appropriate committees of the Legislature of any transfer of firefighting vehicles or related equipment.

**Votes on Final Passage:**

House	98	0	
Senate	48	0	(Senate amended)
House	96	0	(House concurred)

**Effective:** May 10, 2017