
**Housing, Community Development &
Veterans Committee**

HB 1170

Brief Description: Modifying the expiration date of certain state fire service mobilization laws.

Sponsors: Representatives Griffey and Goodman.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Provides that certain statutes relating to state fire service mobilization expire July 1, 2024, instead of July 1, 2019.

Hearing Date: 1/29/19

Staff: Cassie Jones (786-7303).

Background:

During an emergency, when a local jurisdiction needs assistance beyond the capabilities of local resources and mutual aid agreements, a request may be made for a state mobilization. "Mobilization" means that all risk resources regularly provided by fire departments, fire districts, and regional fire protection service authorities beyond those available through existing agreements will be requested and, when available, sent in response to an emergency or disaster situation that has exceeded the capabilities of available local resources. During a large scale emergency, mobilization includes the redistribution of regional or statewide risk resources to either direct emergency incident assignments or to assignment in communities where resources are needed.

The Chief of the Washington State Patrol (WSP) has the authority to mobilize jurisdictions under the Washington State Fire Services Mobilization Plan. The purpose of the mobilization plan is to provide a mechanism and process to quickly notify, assemble, and deploy fire service personnel and equipment to any local fire jurisdiction in Washington that has expended or will expend all available local and mutual aid resources in attempting to manage fires, disasters, or other events

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that jeopardize the ability of a jurisdiction to provide for the protection of life and property. The State Fire Marshal in the WSP serves as the state fire resources coordinator when a state mobilization plan is mobilized.

In 2015, House Bill 1389 (Chapter 181, Laws of 2015) was enacted. This legislation did the following:

- redefined "mobilization" to mean that all risk resources regularly provided by fire departments, fire districts, and regional fire protection service authorities, rather than only firefighting resources, beyond those available through existing agreements will be requested and, when available, sent in response to an emergency or disaster situation;
- prohibited fire department resources from being mobilized to assist law enforcement with police activities during a civil protest or demonstration; however, fire departments may provide medical care or aid and firefighting when mobilized for any purpose;
- defined "all risk resources" to mean those resources regularly provided by fire departments, fire districts, and regional fire protection service authorities required to respond to natural or man-made incidents, including but not limited to: wild land fires, landslides, earthquakes, floods, and contagious disease; and
- required the WSP to report annually the following information for each emergency or disaster in which the Washington state fire service mobilization plan was used for purposes other than fire suppression:
 - the type and nature of the disaster or emergency;
 - the reasons why the host jurisdiction and mutual aid resources were exhausted;
 - the additional risk resources provided under the mobilization plan;
 - the cost incurred by the WSP;
 - the amount of reimbursement made to the host jurisdiction and to each non-host jurisdiction provided all risk resources; and
 - an assessment and any recommendations of actions that can be taken by the host jurisdiction and its mutual aid network to prevent future use of the fire mobilization plan for similar disasters or emergencies.

All provisions of House Bill 1389 (Chapter 181, Laws of 2015) are due to expire July 1, 2019.

Summary of Bill:

The provisions of House Bill 1389 (Chapter 181, Laws of 2015) relating to state fire mobilization are due to expire July 1, 2024, instead of July 1, 2019.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 21, 2019.

Effective Date: The bill contains an emergency clause and takes effect July 1, 2019.