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HOUSE BILL 2078

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State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Representative Klippert

Read first time 02/18/19. Referred to Committee on Local Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to reimbursing volunteer first responders; and  
2 adding a new section to chapter 43.31 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 43.31  
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 (1) Local jurisdictions must reimburse emergency response workers  
7 for any volunteer services provided when called to active Washington  
8 state emergency service. No later than ten days following the initial  
9 date the emergency response worker begins providing emergency  
10 services, the local jurisdiction shall provide reimbursement to the  
11 volunteer emergency response worker for his or her service on behalf  
12 of the jurisdiction. Reimbursements shall be provided on a biweekly  
13 basis.

14 (2) The volunteer emergency response reimbursement account is  
15 created in the custody of the state treasurer. Only the director of  
16 the department of commerce or the director's designee may authorize  
17 expenditures from the account. Funding to local jurisdictions under  
18 this section must be provided by the department through an  
19 interagency agreement or other applicable contract instrument to fund  
20 reimbursements to volunteer emergency response workers for services  
21 provided due to an emergency call. The account is subject to

1 allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but an appropriation is  
2 not required for expenditures.

3 (3) By December 31st of each year, each local jurisdiction shall  
4 annually remit any reimbursement amounts received from the department  
5 during the calendar year from the volunteer emergency response  
6 reimbursement account to the state treasurer.

7 (4) As used in this section:

8 (a) "Emergency response worker" means any first responder.

9 (b) "Emergency service" includes but is not limited to services  
10 provided when called for active wild fires, landslides, earthquakes,  
11 and other severe weather events.

12 (c) "First responder" means a volunteer firefighter, reserve law  
13 enforcement officer, or emergency medical personnel, as licensed or  
14 certified by this state.

15 (d) "Local jurisdiction" means any city, town, county, special  
16 purpose district, or other political subdivision of the state.

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