
HOUSE BILL 1147

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2021 Regular Session

By Representatives Ryu, Klippert, Pollet, Goodman, and Rule

Read first time 01/12/21. Referred to Committee on Community & Economic Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating the Washington state office of
2 resiliency; and adding a new chapter to Title 43 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Washington state residents have been
5 increasingly impacted by natural disasters such as floods,
6 landslides, wildfires, earthquakes, and the COVID-19 pandemic and
7 they continue to be at risk from these and other natural disasters,
8 with communities of color and vulnerable populations
9 disproportionately impacted. The legislature finds that it is
10 critical to better prepare Washington for disasters to mitigate the
11 impacts of natural disasters with coordinated resiliency strategies.
12 The legislature further finds a resilient Washington increases
13 quality of life for Washingtonians while every one dollar spent on
14 mitigation saves six dollars spent on recovery. To address this
15 critical need, the legislature intends to create an office of
16 resiliency to implement a statewide resiliency strategy for the
17 benefit of all Washingtonians while conserving expenditures by both
18 public and private sectors.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The definitions in this section apply
2 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires
3 otherwise.

4 (1) "Executive director" means the executive director of the
5 Washington state office of resiliency.

6 (2) "Office" means the Washington state office of resiliency.

7 (3) "Resiliency" means the ability to prepare, mitigate, plan
8 for, withstand, recover from, and more successfully adapt to adverse
9 events and changing conditions, and reorganize in an equitable manner
10 that results in a new and better condition.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The Washington state office of
12 resiliency is established within the office of the governor for the
13 purpose of coordinating increased resiliency against catastrophic
14 disasters to better assist the people of Washington state recover
15 from these damaging events.

16 (2) The office shall be administered by an executive director.
17 The governor shall appoint the executive director.

18 (3) The executive director shall receive a salary as fixed by the
19 governor in accordance with RCW 43.03.040.

20 (4) The executive director shall:

21 (a) Employ and supervise staff as necessary to carry out the
22 purposes of this chapter and the duties of the office; and

23 (b) Oversee the administration, programs, and policies of the
24 office.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The office shall engage in the following
26 activities:

27 (1) Develop and administer a statewide resiliency strategy and
28 track and communicate the progress of the state resiliency strategy;

29 (2) Produce an annual report to the governor and the legislature
30 on the activities of the office;

31 (3) Conduct and coordinate research, data collection, and
32 analysis;

33 (4) Assist in the coordination of funding and research economic
34 tools to address resiliency;

35 (5) Conduct policy research and make recommendations;

36 (6) Develop, coordinate, and communicate resiliency initiatives
37 and projects;

38 (7) Serve as a public-private resiliency resource center;

- 1 (8) Enhance collaboration, education, and outreach programs; and
2 (9) Other activities the executive director deems necessary to
3 carry out the purposes of the office.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The office may receive gifts, grants, or
5 endowments from public or private sources that are made from time to
6 time, in trust or otherwise, for the use and benefit of the purposes
7 of the office and spend gifts, grants, endowments, or income from the
8 public or private sources according to their terms, unless the
9 receipt of the gifts, grants, or endowments violates RCW 42.17A.560.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** (1) The office of resiliency advisory
11 board is created within the office to provide guidance and
12 recommendations relating to the office's resiliency programs and
13 activities.

14 (2) The advisory board membership must include:

15 (a) Two members and two alternates from the house of
16 representatives, with one member and one alternate appointed from
17 each of the two major caucuses of the house of representatives by the
18 speaker of the house of representatives;

19 (b) Two members and two alternates from the senate, with one
20 member and one alternate appointed from each of the two major
21 caucuses of the senate by the president of the senate; and

22 (c) Additional members appointed by the executive director
23 representing tribal governments, private entities, state agencies,
24 local authorities, academia, special purpose districts, subject-
25 matter experts, historically marginalized groups, communities of
26 color, people with disabilities, people who can improve language
27 access, and people from economically and geographically diverse
28 backgrounds.

29 (3) The advisory board shall be staffed by the office.

30 (4) The advisory board may create focused, ad hoc working groups
31 that include relevant expertise and diverse membership.

32 (5) The advisory board may adopt bylaws for the operation of its
33 business for the purposes of this chapter.

34 (6) Advisory board members shall serve without compensation.
35 Legislative members of the advisory board are reimbursed for travel
36 expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120. Nonlegislative members are
37 not entitled to be reimbursed for travel expenses if they are elected
38 officials or are participating on behalf of an employer, governmental

1 entity, or other organization. Any reimbursement for nonlegislative
2 members is subject to chapter 43.03 RCW.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** The office of resiliency account is
4 created in the custody of the state treasurer. All receipts from
5 appropriations and other sources must be deposited into the account.
6 Expenditures from the account may be used only for the purposes of
7 the office. Only the executive director of the office or the
8 executive director's designee may authorize expenditures from the
9 account. The account is subject to the allotment procedures under
10 chapter 43.88 RCW, but an appropriation is not required for
11 expenditures.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** Sections 1 through 7 of this act
13 constitute a new chapter in Title 43 RCW.

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