

**SHB 1012** - S COMM AMD

By Committee on State Government & Elections

**ADOPTED 03/01/2024**

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** This act may be known and cited as the  
4 extreme weather protection act.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The legislature finds that cold storm  
6 patterns in the winter months, dangerous heat waves in the summer,  
7 and other major weather events present severe public health  
8 challenges for individuals and families in Washington.

9 (2) Moreover, the legislature finds that these challenges are not  
10 experienced equally across the population. The elderly, people with  
11 disabilities, people with low incomes, farmworkers, people  
12 experiencing homelessness, and people who historically were zoned to  
13 areas that faced increased environmental impacts during weather  
14 events are the most at risk for losing their life or being severely  
15 impacted by weather-related ailments.

16 (3) The legislature finds that pets are particularly vulnerable  
17 to extreme weather conditions, including increased risk of  
18 heatstroke-related illness and death, and the inability for pet  
19 owners to find pet friendly accommodations is a major barrier to  
20 accessing heating and cooling centers and other resources and  
21 prevents individuals from evacuating to safety.

22 (4) The legislature finds that during the record heatwave of  
23 2021, the deadliest weather-related disaster in Washington on record,  
24 over 100 people in Washington and nearly 800 people in the northwest  
25 region lost their lives as a result of inability to access cooling  
26 centers or resources and hundreds more visited emergency rooms with  
27 heat-related illnesses.

28 (5) The legislature acknowledges that according to scientists at  
29 the Pacific Northwest national laboratory, it is predicted that these  
30 severe weather events will happen more frequently because of the  
31 changing climate.

1 (6) The legislature finds that the cost to local governments to  
2 provide heating and cooling centers are sometimes insurmountable and  
3 intends to provide supplemental resources to local jurisdictions and  
4 tribal partners where local resources are not available during  
5 extreme weather events.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 38.52  
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this  
9 specific purpose, the department shall develop and implement an  
10 extreme weather response grant program for the purpose of assisting  
11 political subdivisions and federally recognized tribes, in geographic  
12 areas where vulnerable populations face combined, multiple  
13 environmental harms and health impacts as determined by the  
14 department, with the costs of responding to community needs during  
15 periods of extremely hot or cold weather or in situations of severe  
16 poor air quality from wildfire smoke. The department may adopt rules  
17 to administer the extreme weather response grant program.

18 (2)(a) The department may award grants to political subdivisions  
19 and federally recognized tribes, in geographic areas where vulnerable  
20 populations face combined, multiple environmental harms and health  
21 impacts as determined by the department, for reimbursement of costs  
22 in accordance with subsection (3) of this section if the costs were  
23 incurred by communities that have demonstrated a lack of local  
24 resources to address community needs and were incurred for the  
25 benefit of vulnerable populations. For the purposes of this section,  
26 vulnerability refers to the resilience of communities when confronted  
27 by external stresses on human health, such as natural or human-caused  
28 disasters. Vulnerable populations include, but are not limited to,  
29 individuals with disabilities, individuals without vehicles, older  
30 adults, individuals with low incomes or experiencing homelessness,  
31 and individuals with limited English proficiency.

32 (b) The department may utilize grant dollars to purchase  
33 temporary, movable shelters, which shall remain in the custody of the  
34 department to be loaned out to political subdivisions when requested  
35 by the executive head to assist with emergency response to extreme  
36 weather events.

37 (3) The costs associated with the following activities are  
38 eligible for reimbursement under the extreme weather response grant  
39 program:

1 (a) Establishing and operating warming and cooling centers,  
2 including rental of equipment, purchase of supplies and water,  
3 staffing, and other associated costs;

4 (b) Transporting individuals and their pets to warming and  
5 cooling centers;

6 (c) Purchasing fans or other supplies needed for cooling of  
7 congregate living settings;

8 (d) Providing emergency temporary housing such as rental of a  
9 hotel or convention center;

10 (e) Retrofitting or establishing facilities within warming and  
11 cooling centers that are pet friendly in order to permit individuals  
12 to evacuate with their pets; and

13 (f) Other related activities necessary for life safety during a  
14 period of extremely hot or cold weather or in situations of severe  
15 poor air quality from wildfire smoke as determined by the department.

16 (4) The department shall, upon request, provide information to  
17 political subdivisions and federally recognized tribes regarding the  
18 establishment and operation of warming and cooling centers.

19 (5) Grant funding awarded under this section must be used to  
20 supplement, not supplant, other federal, state, and local funding for  
21 emergency response.

22 (6) For purposes of this section, "political subdivision" means  
23 any county, city, or town that has established a local organization  
24 for emergency management or any joint local organization for  
25 emergency management established pursuant to RCW 38.52.070.

26 **Sec. 4.** RCW 38.52.105 and 2022 c 157 s 10 are each amended to  
27 read as follows:

28 The disaster response account is created in the state treasury.  
29 Moneys may be placed in the account from legislative appropriations  
30 and transfers, federal appropriations, or any other lawful source.  
31 Moneys in the account may be spent only after appropriation.  
32 Expenditures from the account may be used only for support of state  
33 agency and local government disaster response and recovery efforts,  
34 including the awarding of grants under section 3 of this act,  
35 response by state and local government and federally recognized  
36 tribes to the novel coronavirus pursuant to the gubernatorial  
37 declaration of emergency of February 29, 2020, and to reimburse the  
38 workers' compensation funds and self-insured employers under RCW  
39 51.16.220. Expenditures from the disaster response account may be

1 used for military department operations and to support wildland fire  
2 suppression preparedness, prevention, and restoration activities by  
3 state agencies and local governments. The legislature may direct the  
4 treasurer to make transfers of moneys in the disaster response  
5 account to the state general fund."

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6 On page 1, line 1 of the title, after "events;" strike the  
7 remainder of the title and insert "amending RCW 38.52.105; adding a  
8 new section to chapter 38.52 RCW; and creating new sections."

EFFECT: Allows the military department to purchase temporary shelters to be loaned to political subdivisions when requested to assist with response to extreme weather events.

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