
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1728

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By House Innovation, Community & Economic Development, & Veterans
(originally sponsored by Representatives Donaghy, Rule, Reeves,
Morgan, Ramel, Reed, and Leavitt)

READ FIRST TIME 02/16/23.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating a statewide resiliency program;
2 adding a new section to chapter 38.52 RCW; and creating a new
3 section.

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

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

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 38.52
2 RCW to read as follows:

3 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
4 specific purpose, the emergency management division within the
5 department shall develop and administer a statewide resilience
6 program. The program should include:

7 (a) Methods for ensuring ongoing coordination of state and local
8 resilience and response activities, including:

9 (i) Developing, administering, tracking, and communicating
10 progress of overall resilience efforts;

11 (ii) Coordinating funding to maximize federal, state, local, and
12 private investments;

13 (iii) Serving as a public and private resilience resource center;

14 (iv) Enhancing interagency collaboration, education, and outreach
15 programs; and

16 (v) Identifying and leveraging respective roles, authorities, and
17 expertise of agencies;

18 (b) Strategies for addressing the impacts of all hazards, both
19 natural and human-caused, such as border closures, including:

20 (i) Developing, coordinating, and communicating resilience
21 initiatives and projects across state agencies and local governments
22 on hazards and issues where there is not another lead agency for
23 coordinating resilience activities, including projects that give
24 special consideration to exclave communities;

25 (ii) Conducting policy research and recommendations related to
26 enhancing resilience;

27 (iii) Coordinating research, data collection, and analysis;

28 (iv) Researching economic tools to address resilience; and

29 (v) Recommending investments to mitigate risks from all hazards;
30 and

31 (c) Participating and collaborating in interagency efforts to
32 advance statewide climate resilience activities under chapter 70A.05
33 RCW, including collaborating on the development of a statewide
34 strategy and identifying opportunities to leverage funding to advance
35 solutions that improve the resilience of communities, infrastructure,
36 and ecosystems.

37 (2) Beginning June 30, 2025, and every two years thereafter, the
38 emergency management division shall provide a report to the office of
39 the governor and the appropriate committees of the legislature on the
40 overall progress of resilience efforts for the hazards and issues

1 where there is not another lead agency for coordinating resilience
2 activities. Agencies with responsibilities for resilience activities
3 are encouraged to include their efforts as an appendix to the report.

4 (3) For purposes of this section, "resilience" means the ability
5 to prepare, mitigate, plan for, withstand, recover from, and more
6 successfully adapt to adverse events and changing conditions, and
7 reorganize in an equitable manner that results in a new and better
8 condition.

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