SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1271

State of Washington   **69th Legislature**   **2025 Regular Session**

By House Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Nance, Dent, Marshall, Bronoske, Leavitt, Salahuddin, Ryu, Davis, Mena, Ramel, Dye, Barkis, Klicker, Reed, Ormsby, Scott, Eslick, Parshley, Taylor, Kloba, Timmons, Peterson, Richards, Simmons, Hunt, and Hill)

READ FIRST TIME 02/28/25.

1   AN ACT Relating to early deployment of state fire service
2   resources; amending RCW 43.43.960; and creating a new section.

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

4   **Sec. 1.**   RCW 43.43.960 and 2019 c 259 s 1 are each amended to
5   read as follows:
6   Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in
7   this section apply throughout this subchapter.
8   (1) "All risk resources" means those resources regularly provided
9   by fire departments, fire districts, and regional fire protection
10 service authorities required to respond to natural or man-made
11 incidents, including but not limited to:
12   (a) Wild land fires;
13   (b) Landslides;
14   (c) Earthquakes;
15   (d) Floods; and
16   (e) Contagious diseases.
17   (2) "Chief" means the chief of the Washington state patrol.
18   (3) "Fire chief" includes the chief officer of a statutorily
19 authorized fire agency, or the fire chief's authorized
20 representative. Also included are the department of natural resources

1 fire control chief, and the department of natural resources regional
2 managers.

3   (4) "Jurisdiction" means state, county, city, fire district,
4 regional fire protection service authority, or port district units,
5 or other units covered by this chapter.

6   (5) "Mobilization" means that all risk resources regularly
7 provided by fire departments, fire districts, and regional fire
8 protection service authorities beyond those available through
9 existing agreements will be requested and, when available, sent in
10 preparation of, or response to, an emergency or disaster situation
11 that has ((exceeded)) or is predicted to exceed the capabilities of
12 available local resources. During a large scale emergency,
13 mobilization includes the redistribution of regional or statewide
14 risk resources to either direct emergency incident assignments or to
15 assignment in communities where resources are needed. All risk
16 resources may not be mobilized to assist law enforcement with police
17 activities during a civil protest or demonstration, or other exercise
18 by the people of their constitutionally protected First Amendment
19 rights, or other protected concerted activity, however, fire
20 departments, fire districts, and regional fire protection service
21 authorities are not restricted from providing medical care or aid and
22 firefighting when mobilized for any purpose.

23   When mobilization is declared and authorized as provided in this
24 chapter, all risk resources regularly provided by fire departments,
25 fire districts, and regional fire protection service authorities
26 including those of the host fire protection authorities, i.e.
27 incident jurisdiction, shall be deemed as mobilized under this
28 chapter, including those that responded earlier under existing mutual
29 aid or other agreement. All nonhost fire protection authorities
30 providing resources in response to a mobilization declaration shall
31 be eligible for expense reimbursement as provided by this chapter
32 from the time of the mobilization declaration.

33   This chapter shall not reduce or suspend the authority or
34 responsibility of the department of natural resources under chapter
35 76.04 RCW.

36   (6) "Mutual aid" means emergency interagency assistance provided
37 without compensation under an agreement between jurisdictions under
38 chapter 39.34 RCW.

39   (7) "State fire marshal" means the director of fire protection in
40 the Washington state patrol.

1   <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 2.** If specific funding for the purposes of
2   this act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not
3   provided by June 30, 2025, in the omnibus appropriations act, this
4   act is null and void.

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