
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1040

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By House Housing, Community Development & Veterans (originally sponsored by Representatives Reeves, Stanford, Barkis, Slatter, and Ryu; by request of Insurance Commissioner)

1 AN ACT Relating to the creation of a work group to study and make
2 recommendations on natural disaster mitigation and resiliency
3 activities; adding a new section to chapter 48.02 RCW; and creating a
4 new section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that residents of
7 this state have been impacted by natural disasters such as floods,
8 landslides, wildfires, and earthquakes and continue to be at risk
9 from these and other natural disasters. In 2016, insured losses from
10 natural disasters in the United States totaled almost twenty-four
11 billion dollars. In 2015, Washington state had the largest wildfire
12 season in state history, with more than one million acres burned and
13 costing more than two hundred fifty-three million dollars. In 2017,
14 four hundred four thousand two hundred twenty-three acres burned in
15 Washington state and there were more than four hundred thirty
16 national flood insurance program claims filed, totaling over seven
17 million dollars.

18 The legislature finds that Washington state has the second
19 highest earthquake risk in the nation, estimated by the federal
20 emergency management agency to exceed four hundred thirty-eight
21 million dollars per year. The 2001 Nisqually earthquake caused more

1 than two billion dollars in damage. A Seattle fault earthquake will
2 cause an estimated thirty-three billion dollars in damage, and a
3 Cascadia subduction zone earthquake will cause an estimated amount of
4 over forty-nine billion dollars in damage.

5 The legislature finds that it is critical to better prepare this
6 state for disasters and to put in place strategies to mitigate the
7 impacts of disasters. To address this critical need, the legislature
8 is creating a work group to review disaster mitigation and
9 preparation projects in this state and other states, make
10 recommendations regarding how to coordinate and expand state efforts
11 to mitigate the impacts of natural disasters, and evaluate whether an
12 ongoing disaster resiliency program should be created.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 48.02
14 RCW to read as follows:

15 (1) A work group to study and make recommendations on natural
16 disaster and resiliency activities is hereby created. The work group
17 membership shall be composed of:

18 (a) The insurance commissioner or his or her designee, who shall
19 serve as the chair of the work group;

20 (b) One member from each of the four major caucuses of the
21 legislature;

22 (c) A representative from the governor's resilient Washington
23 work group;

24 (d) A representative from the Washington state association of
25 counties;

26 (e) A representative from the association of Washington cities;

27 (f) A representative from the state building code council;

28 (g) The commissioner of the department of natural resources or
29 his or her designee;

30 (h) The director of the Washington state military department or
31 his or her designee;

32 (i) The superintendent of public instruction or his or her
33 designee;

34 (j) The secretary of the state department of transportation or
35 his or her designee;

36 (k) A representative of emergency and transitional housing
37 providers, to be appointed by the office of the insurance
38 commissioner;

- 1 (l) The director of the department of ecology or his or her
2 designee;
- 3 (m) The director of the department of commerce or his or her
4 designee;
- 5 (n) The director of the department of agriculture or his or her
6 designee;
- 7 (o) The executive director of the state conservation commission
8 or his or her designee;
- 9 (p) A representative from the Washington association of building
10 officials;
- 11 (q) Two representatives from the property and casualty insurance
12 industry, to be selected by the insurance commissioner or his or her
13 designee, through an application process;
- 14 (r) A representative from public utility districts to be selected
15 by a state association of public utility districts;
- 16 (s) A representative from the building industry association of
17 Washington;
- 18 (t) A representative selected by the Washington state commission
19 on African-American affairs, the Washington state commission on
20 Hispanic affairs, the governor's office of Indian affairs, and the
21 Washington state commission on Asian Pacific American affairs to
22 represent the three commissions on the work group; and
- 23 (u) Other state agency representatives or stakeholder group
24 representatives, at the discretion of the work group, for the purpose
25 of participating in specific topic discussions or subcommittees.
- 26 (2) The work group shall engage in the following activities:
- 27 (a) Review disaster mitigation and resiliency activities being
28 done in this state by public and private entities;
- 29 (b) Review disaster mitigation and resiliency activities being
30 done in other states and at the federal level;
- 31 (c) Review information on uptake in this state for disaster
32 related insurance, such as flood and earthquake insurance;
- 33 (d) Review information on how other states are coordinating
34 disaster mitigation and resiliency work including, but not limited
35 to, the work of entities such as the California earthquake authority;
- 36 (e) Review how other states and the federal government fund their
37 disaster mitigation and resiliency activities and programs; and
- 38 (f) Make recommendations to the legislature and office of the
39 insurance commissioner regarding:

1 (i) Whether this state should create an ongoing disaster
2 resiliency program;
3 (ii) What activities the program should engage in;
4 (iii) How the program should coordinate with state agencies and
5 other entities engaged in disaster mitigation and resiliency work;
6 (iv) Where the program should be housed; and
7 (v) How the program should be funded.
8 (3) The work group shall submit, in compliance with RCW
9 43.01.036, a preliminary report of recommendations to the
10 legislature, the office of the insurance commissioner, the governor,
11 the office of the superintendent of public instruction, and the
12 commissioner of public lands by November 1, 2019, and a final report
13 by December 1, 2020.

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