
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5455

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Senate Government Operations & Security (originally sponsored by Senators Rivers, Parlette, Hatfield, and Hobbs)

1 AN ACT Relating to delivery of basic firefighter training and
2 testing; and amending RCW 43.43.934.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.43.934 and 2012 c 229 s 818 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 The director of fire protection shall:

7 (1)(a)(i) With the state board for community and technical
8 colleges, provide academic, vocational, and field training programs
9 for the fire service; and (ii) with the state colleges and
10 universities, provide instructional programs requiring advanced
11 training, especially in command and management skills;

12 (b) Cooperate with the common schools, technical and community
13 colleges, institutions of higher education, and any department or
14 division of the state, or of any county or municipal corporation in
15 establishing and maintaining instruction in fire service training and
16 education in accordance with any act of congress and legislation
17 enacted by the legislature in pursuance thereof and in establishing,
18 building, and operating training and education facilities.

19 Industrial fire departments and private fire investigators may
20 participate in training and education programs under this chapter for
21 a reasonable fee established by rule;

1 (c) Develop and adopt a master plan for constructing, equipping,
2 maintaining, and operating necessary fire service training and
3 education facilities subject to the provisions of chapter 43.19 RCW;

4 (d) Develop and adopt a master plan for the purchase, lease, or
5 other acquisition of real estate necessary for fire service training
6 and education facilities in a manner provided by law; and

7 (e) Develop and adopt a plan (~~with a goal of providing~~
8 ~~firefighter one and wildland training to all firefighters in the~~
9 ~~state. Wildland training reimbursement will be provided if a fire~~
10 ~~protection district or a city fire department has and is fulfilling~~
11 ~~their interior attack policy or if they do not have an interior~~
12 ~~attack policy. The plan will include a reimbursement for fire~~
13 ~~protection districts and city fire departments of not less than three~~
14 ~~dollars for every hour of firefighter one or wildland training. The~~
15 ~~Washington state patrol shall not provide reimbursement for more than~~
16 ~~two hundred hours of firefighter one or wildland training for each~~
17 ~~firefighter trained)) for the Washington state patrol fire training
18 academy to deliver basic firefighter training and testing up to and
19 including the requirements of firefighter I identified as the
20 national fire protection association standard 1001. The training and
21 testing is for all city fire departments, fire districts, regional
22 fire authorities, or any other municipal fire agencies within the
23 state of Washington. Delivery of the training must be done by the
24 fire training academy either at the academy in North Bend or
25 delivered regionally by the fire training academy at local fire
26 agencies. Fire agencies have the option of seeking reimbursement for
27 their firefighter I training expenses in lieu of obtaining training
28 from the fire training academy. The reimbursement will be according
29 to the process set forth in this subsection.~~

30 (i) The priority for providing direct delivery of training or the
31 reimbursement of training expenses to city fire departments, fire
32 districts, and regional fire authorities and other municipal fire
33 agencies is as set forth in (e)(i)(B) of this subsection.

34 (A) A volunteer department is a fire department with volunteer
35 emergency service personnel comprising eighty-five percent or greater
36 of its department membership. A combination department is a fire
37 department with emergency service personnel comprising less than
38 eighty-five percent of either volunteer or career membership.

39 (B) The priority for training or reimbursement under this
40 subsection is as follows: (I) Volunteer departments; (II) combination

1 departments; and (III) agencies that use only career firefighters and
2 fire officers.

3 (ii) The direct delivery of training includes all resources,
4 personnel, and equipment necessary to deliver the training statewide
5 or at the fire training academy in North Bend.

6 (iii) The amount of reimbursement provided to fire agencies for
7 conducting their own firefighter I training will be calculated on a
8 per capita basis. The per capita amount is equal to the three-year
9 statewide firefighter per capita average for the regional direct
10 delivery of training by the fire training academy. The three-year
11 statewide firefighter per capita average is calculated by dividing
12 the number of firefighters trained using the regional direct delivery
13 program during the three-year period into the total cost for
14 providing regional direct delivery during the same three-year period.
15 The regional direct delivery costs used for the basis of these
16 calculations does not include the costs of the fire training academy
17 employees used to coordinate the direct delivery programs or the
18 state's indirect costs or any indirect costs.

19 (iv) The fire training academy facilities and programs are
20 available at no cost to fire service youth programs. The goals are to
21 increase enrollment of volunteer firefighters and to improve gender,
22 cultural, and ethnic diversity within the fire service. Availability
23 of the facility and programs is dependent on the approval of the
24 Washington state patrol, director of fire protection.

25 (2)(a) Promote mutual aid and disaster planning for fire services
26 in this state;

27 (b) Assure the dissemination of information concerning the amount
28 of fire damage including that damage caused by arson, and its causes
29 and prevention; and

30 (c) Implement any legislation enacted by the legislature to meet
31 the requirements of any acts of congress that apply to this section.

32 (3) In carrying out its statutory duties, the office of the state
33 fire marshal shall give particular consideration to the appropriate
34 roles to be played by the state and by local jurisdictions with fire
35 protection responsibilities. Any determinations on the division of
36 responsibility shall be made in consultation with local fire
37 officials and their representatives.

38 To the extent possible, the office of the state fire marshal
39 shall encourage development of regional units along compatible
40 geographic, population, economic, and fire risk dimensions. Such

1 regional units may serve to: (a) Reinforce coordination among state
2 and local activities in fire service training, reporting,
3 inspections, and investigations; (b) identify areas of special need,
4 particularly in smaller jurisdictions with inadequate resources; (c)
5 assist the state in its oversight responsibilities; (d) identify
6 funding needs and options at both the state and local levels; and (e)
7 provide models for building local capacity in fire protection
8 programs.

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