

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 25, 2002  
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 23, 2002  
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 21, 2002

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2001–02 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 2002**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Alquist**

February 15, 2002

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An act to add Article 8.5 (commencing with Section 8601) to Chapter 7 of Division 1 of Title 2 of the Government Code, relating to emergency services.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2002, as amended, Alquist. ~~Office of Emergency Services: Search~~ *Urban search* and rescue emergency response advisory committee.

~~The Emergency Services Act~~

*Existing law* generally sets forth the duties of the ~~Office of Emergency Services under the direction of the Director of Emergency Services~~ *Seismic Safety Commission*, in overseeing various emergency response activities in the state *relating to earthquake hazard reduction and prediction*.

This bill would require the ~~director~~ *Seismic Safety Commission*, in consultation with the *Director of Emergency Services*, to establish ~~a~~ *an urban search and rescue emergency response advisory committee* to prepare and submit to the ~~director~~ *commission chairperson* a strategy, plan, and recommendations for addressing the resource needs of emergency *urban search and rescue units*.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the  
2 following:

3 (a) The ability of emergency response agencies, particularly  
4 those operating under mutual-aid agreements, to respond  
5 expeditiously and effectively during disaster situations is critical  
6 to saving lives and preserving property.

7 (b) In cooperation with federal governmental agencies, *urban*  
8 search and rescue units have been formed and maintained  
9 throughout the state.

10 (c) The *urban* search and rescue units may have first-responder  
11 responsibilities in situations involving natural and manmade  
12 disasters occurring in California.

13 (d) To maintain an effective response capability, there is a need  
14 for a coordinated planning strategy to address the ongoing  
15 resource needs of emergency response agencies, including *urban*  
16 search and rescue units.

17 (e) The emergency response equipment being utilized by many  
18 local agencies is aging, and less effective than newer equipment  
19 being developed and made available to local emergency response  
20 agencies.

21 (f) Emerging technological advances are continuing to develop  
22 emergency response equipment that is effective and efficient, yet  
23 costly to local government agencies.

24 (g) It is necessary for the state, as part of the statewide  
25 mutual-aid agreement and arrangements, and in the interest of  
26 protecting the lives and property of its residents, to assist local  
27 agencies with the planning resources that will enable mutual-aid  
28 units to maximize their effectiveness in responding to and  
29 managing emergencies faced by the state and by local and regional  
30 communities.

31 SEC. 2. Article 8.5 (commencing with Section 8601) is added  
32 to Chapter 7 of Division 1 of Title 2 of the Government Code, to  
33 read:  
34



1 Article 8.5. *Urban Search and Rescue Emergency Response*  
2 Advisory Committee  
3

4 8601. (a) Using existing budgetary resources, *the Seismic*  
5 *Safety Commission, in consultation with the Director of*  
6 *Emergency Services, shall establish a an urban search and rescue*  
7 *emergency response advisory committee, which shall, in addition*  
8 *to the commission, may include representatives of organizations*  
9 *including, but not limited to, at his or her the commission*  
10 *chairperson's discretion, the California Fire Chiefs Association,*  
11 *the Fire Districts Association of California, the California*  
12 *Professional Firefighters, the California Department of Forestry*  
13 *Firefighters, the California State Firefighters Association, Inc.,*  
14 ~~*and the California Seismic Safety Commission.*~~ *Inc., the*  
15 *California Police Chiefs' Association, the California Police*  
16 *Officers Association, the California State Sheriffs' Association,*  
17 *and the Peace Officer Research Association of California.*

18 (b) The advisory committee shall prepare and submit to the  
19 ~~director~~ *commission chairperson, on or before September 1, 2003,*  
20 *a strategy, plan, and recommendations for addressing the resource*  
21 *needs of emergency response urban search and rescue units.*

