

Introduced by Senator Dutton

February 15, 2007

An act to amend Section 8588.1 of the Government Code, relating to disaster preparedness.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 296, as introduced, Dutton. Office of Emergency Services: disaster preparedness.

The California Emergency Services Act authorizes the Office of Emergency Services to include private businesses and nonprofit organizations within its responsibilities to prepare the state for disasters. The act creates the Disaster Resistant Communities Account in the General Fund and authorizes the Director of the Office of Emergency Services, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to expend the money in the account for this purpose. The act requires that any new activity undertaken by the office under these provisions be contingent upon the receipt of donations to the account.

This bill would rename the account the Disaster Resistant Communities Fund in the State Treasury and would delete the requirement that any new activity be contingent upon the receipt of donations to the account.

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. Section 8588.1 of the Government Code is
2 amended to read:

1 8588.1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares that this state
2 can only truly be prepared for the next disaster if the public and
3 private sector collaborate.

4 (b) The Office of Emergency Services may, as appropriate,
5 include private businesses and nonprofit organizations within its
6 responsibilities to prepare the state for disasters under this chapter.
7 All participation by businesses and nonprofit associations in this
8 program shall be voluntary.

9 (c) The office may do any of the following:

10 (1) Provide guidance to business and nonprofit organizations
11 representing business interests on how to integrate private sector
12 emergency preparedness measures into governmental disaster
13 planning programs.

14 (2) Conduct outreach programs to encourage business to work
15 with governments and community associations to better prepare
16 the community and their employees to survive and recover from
17 disasters.

18 (3) Develop systems so that government, businesses, and
19 employees can exchange information during disasters to protect
20 themselves and their families.

21 (4) Develop programs so that businesses and government can
22 work cooperatively to advance technology that will protect the
23 public during disasters.

24 (d) The office may share facilities and systems for the purposes
25 of subdivision (b) with the private sector to the extent the cost for
26 their use are reimbursed by the private sector.

27 (e) Proprietary information or information protected by state or
28 federal privacy laws; shall not be disclosed under this program.

29 (f) Notwithstanding Section 11005, donations and private grants
30 may be accepted by the office and shall not be subject to Section
31 11005.

32 (g) The Disaster Resistant Communities ~~Account~~ *Fund* is hereby
33 created in the ~~General Fund~~ *State Treasury*. Upon appropriation
34 by the Legislature, the Director of the Office of Emergency
35 Services may expend the money in the account for the costs
36 associated within this section. ~~(h) Any new activity undertaken by~~
37 ~~the office under this section shall be contingent upon the receipt~~
38 ~~of donations to the Disaster Resistant Communities Account.~~

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