

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 4, 2007

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 296**

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**Introduced by Senator Dutton**

February 15, 2007

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 296, as amended, 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. *It would instead require that these provisions be implemented only to the extent that in-kind contributions or donations are received from private sector, or grant funds are received from the federal government, for these purposes.*

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:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

31 (f) Notwithstanding Section 11005, donations and private grants  
32 may be accepted by the office and shall not be subject to Section  
33 11005.

34 (g) The Disaster Resistant Communities Fund is hereby created  
35 in the State Treasury. Upon appropriation by the Legislature, the  
36 Director of the Office of Emergency Services may expend the  
37 money in the account for the costs associated within this section.

1     *(h) This section shall be implemented only to the extent that*  
2     *in-kind contributions or donations are received from the private*  
3     *sector, or grant funds are received from the federal government,*  
4     *for these purposes.*

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