
SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION

Senator Bill Dodd

Chair

2021 - 2022 Regular

Bill No: AB 1568 **Hearing Date:** 7/6/2021
Author: Committee on Emergency Management
Version: 3/3/2021 Introduced
Urgency: Yes **Fiscal:** Yes
Consultant: Brian Duke

SUBJECT: California Emergency Services Act: Office of Emergency Services: statewide registry

DIGEST: This bill requires the Office of Emergency Services (OES) to establish a statewide registry of private businesses and nonprofit organizations, as specified.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) The California Emergency Services Act (ESA) establishes OES and vests the office with responsibility for the state's emergency and disaster response services for natural, technological, or human-made disasters and emergencies, as specified.
- 2) Authorizes OES to establish a statewide registry of private businesses and nonprofit organizations that are interested in donating service, goods, labor, equipment, resources, or dispensaries or other facilities, as specified.
- 3) Provides that the Legislature finds and declares that the state can only truly be prepared for the next disaster if the public and private sector collaborate, as specified.

This bill:

- 1) Requires OES to establish a statewide registry of private businesses and nonprofit organizations that are interested in donating service, goods, labor, equipment, resources, or dispensaries or other facilities, as specified.
- 2) Includes an urgency clause, to take effect immediately.

Background

Purpose of the bill. According to the author's office, "the COVID-19 pandemic has made it clear that, in order to best prepare and protect the citizens of the state and ensure that we are prepared for and can respond to emergencies, government and the private sector need to work together. The public sector alone is incapable of meeting California's preparedness needs. The private and nonprofit sectors have vast stores of medical supplies, building and construction materials, food, water and other goods, as well as services that would be essential following a catastrophic event."

Further, the author's office states that, "the private sector owns or has access to substantial response and support resources. Community Based Organizations or Non-Governmental Organizations also provide valuable resources before, during, and after a disaster. These resources can be effective assets before, during and after emergencies. We should make it as easy as possible for the private sector to donate their goods and services to enhance California's disaster preparedness."

Ongoing and complex disasters are the new normal. In recent written testimony provided to the House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations, California's OES Director stated, "the State of California arguably faces the most complex and severe disaster conditions in the nation and these challenges and complexities grow in magnitude each year. In the past decade, California has experienced every conceivable type of natural and manmade disaster including drought, earthquake, flood, catastrophic wildfire, mudslides, dam failure, cyber security attacks, oil spills, natural gas leak, civil unrest, terrorism, and tsunami. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has put our emergency management system to the test."

The Director continued, "COVID-19 has severely impacted California. As of March 11, 2021, the State had a cumulative total of over 3.5 million cases and over 54,800 COVID-related deaths. Before the pandemic, California had record low unemployment. After the first few months of the pandemic, the State faced a 16.4% unemployment rate. As essential workers risked their lives to keep our vital systems working, while other Californians were confined to their homes, government and businesses fundamentally changed the way they operate. This change extended to emergency management. The impacts of the virus forced the State to reevaluate standard operating procedure and implement plans to respond to later surges, and even concurrent disasters."

Emergency Preparedness and Response. OES is responsible for addressing natural, technological, or manmade disasters and emergencies, and preparing the

State to prevent, respond to, quickly recover from, and mitigate the effects of both intentional and natural disasters. As part of their overall preparedness mission, OES is required to develop a State Emergency Plan (SEP), State Hazard Mitigation Plan (SHMP), and maintains Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) and the Emergency Management Mutual Aid System (EMMA). OES, in coordination with FEMA and local partners, has developed four Catastrophic Plans to augment the SEP.

Office of Private Sector and Non-Governmental Organization. In 2015, OES established the Office of Private Sector and Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Coordination. This office designs, coordinates, and implements statewide outreach programs to foster relationships with businesses, associations, companies, academia, as well as non-profit and philanthropic organizations. It works within OES to maximize inclusion and effective use of private sector and NGO staff and resources in all phases of emergency management.

Existing law authorizes OES to establish a statewide registry of private businesses and nonprofit organizations that are interested in donating services, goods, labor, equipment, resources, or dispensaries or other facilities, as specified.

This bill instead *requires* OES to establish the registry.

Prior/Related Legislation

AB 2796 (Nava, Chapter 363, Statutes of 2008) authorizes OES to establish a statewide registry of private businesses and nonprofit organizations that are interested in donating services, goods, labor, equipment, resources, or dispensaries or other facilities to further collaboration between the private and public sector.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

SUPPORT:

None received

OPPOSITION:

None received