

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1201

Chapter 80, Laws of 2025

69th Legislature
2025 Regular Session

EMERGENCY SHELTERS—ACCOMMODATION OF COMPANION ANIMALS

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 27, 2025

Passed by the House March 4, 2025
Yeas 69 Nays 26

LAURIE JINKINS
**Speaker of the House of
Representatives**

Passed by the Senate April 11, 2025
Yeas 38 Nays 11

DENNY HECK
President of the Senate

Approved April 21, 2025 9:18 AM

BOB FERGUSON
Governor of the State of Washington

CERTIFICATE

I, Bernard Dean, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1201** as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

BERNARD DEAN

Chief Clerk

FILED

April 21, 2025

**Secretary of State
State of Washington**

ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1201

Passed Legislature - 2025 Regular Session

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By House Technology, Economic Development, & Veterans (originally sponsored by Representatives Leavitt, Ryu, Macri, Bronoske, Simmons, and Berg)

READ FIRST TIME 01/31/25.

1 AN ACT Relating to identifying accommodations allowing pets in an
2 emergency or extreme weather event; adding a new section to chapter
3 38.52 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that natural
6 disasters and extreme weather events, including wildfire, flooding,
7 earthquakes, extreme heat, and extreme cold present severe risks to
8 public health and safety in Washington.

9 The legislature further finds that pets that are companion
10 animals are particularly vulnerable to extreme weather conditions,
11 including risk of heatstroke-related illness and death.

12 The legislature further finds that many families consider their
13 companion animals to be family members. One of the most significant
14 factors affecting evacuation decisions is companion animal ownership.
15 Companion animal owners may refuse evacuation, attempt to reenter
16 evacuated sites to rescue their companion animals, and experience
17 grief, depression, and posttraumatic stress disorder due to
18 separation from their companion animal during an emergency. In
19 addition, zoonotic disease risks increase when companion animals are
20 abandoned or left to roam during an evacuation.

1 The legislature further finds that gaps in public preparedness
2 and cosheltering opportunities during a disaster or extreme weather
3 event increase the risk to public health and safety.

4 The legislature further finds that partnerships with
5 nongovernmental organizations support emergency planning and
6 preparedness and may be used to support identification and operation
7 of coshelters.

8 Therefore, the legislature intends to provide guidance in
9 increasing public preparedness and identifying shelters that can
10 accommodate companion animals so that in the event of a disaster or
11 extreme weather event, Washington residents will not have to choose
12 between seeking safety and staying with their companion animals.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 38.52
14 RCW to read as follows:

15 (1) A political subdivision, under existing plan structures,
16 shall, to the extent practicable based on available resources and
17 site-specific circumstances, address cosheltering for emergency
18 shelters in each update of its local comprehensive emergency
19 management plan required by RCW 38.52.070.

20 (2) A political subdivision, under existing plan structures,
21 shall, to the extent practicable based on available resources and
22 site-specific circumstances, identify emergency shelters able to
23 accommodate persons with companion animals.

24 (3) Whenever a political subdivision identifies any number of
25 emergency shelters in response to a natural disaster or extreme
26 weather event, it should, to the extent practicable, identify at
27 least one coshelter.

28 (4) An emergency shelter that is identified to accommodate
29 persons with companion animals must have safety procedures regarding
30 the sheltering of companion animals and comply with disaster
31 assistance policies and procedures published by the federal emergency
32 management agency.

33 (5) A political subdivision shall provide companion animal
34 emergency preparedness information on its website, including:

35 (a) To the extent practicable, whether each identified emergency
36 shelter can accommodate companion animals;

37 (b) Information for creating a companion animal evacuation plan
38 and emergency checklist, consistent with the federal emergency
39 management agency recommendations; and

1 (c) Identification of local organizations that provide emergency
2 companion animal assistance.

3 (6) The following definitions apply to this section:

4 (a) "Companion animal" means a domesticated animal, such as a dog
5 or cat, that is commonly kept in the home for pleasure rather than
6 for commercial purposes;

7 (b) "Coshelter" means a temporary shelter that allows an
8 individual to stay in an adjacent area or the same facility as a
9 companion animal;

10 (c) "Emergency shelter" means a temporary location that provides
11 basic shelter for individuals affected by an emergency or disaster;
12 and

13 (d) "Existing plan structure" means planning documents describing
14 how political subdivisions, in collaboration with nonprofit
15 organizations, and state and federal government, will provide
16 emergency shelter and temporary housing to individuals displaced by a
17 disaster.

Passed by the House March 4, 2025.

Passed by the Senate April 11, 2025.

Approved by the Governor April 21, 2025.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State April 21, 2025.

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