

Senate Bill No. 546

CHAPTER 232

An act to add Section 8588.1 to the Government Code, relating to emergency services.

[Approved by Governor September 13, 2005. Filed with
Secretary of State September 13, 2005.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 546, Dutton. Office of Emergency Services: public-private partnerships.

The California Emergency Services Act sets forth the duties of the Office of Emergency Services in overseeing and coordinating various emergency response programs in the state.

This bill would authorize the office to share facilities and systems that would, among other things, include private businesses and nonprofit organizations in a voluntary program that would integrate private sector emergency preparedness measures into governmental disaster planning programs to the extent that the cost of the program is reimbursed by the private sector.

The bill would create the Disaster Resistant Communities Account in the General Fund and would require that any new activity undertaken by the office under these provisions is contingent upon the receipt of private donations to the account.

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

SECTION 1. Section 8588.1 is added to the Government Code, to read:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(h) Any new activity undertaken by the office under this section shall be contingent upon the receipt of donations to the Disaster Resistant Communities Account.