

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1003

Introduced by Assembly Member Calderon

February 20, 2025

An act to amend Section 8593.25 of the Government Code, and to amend Section 107250 of, and to add Section 107251 to, the Health and Safety Code, relating to public health.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1003, as introduced, Calderon. Public health: emergency plans: Wildfire Smoke Research and Education Fund.

Existing law requires the State Department of Public Health to develop a plan with recommendations and guidelines for counties to use in the case of a significant air quality event, as defined, caused by wildfires or other sources, including establishing policies and procedures that address respiratory protection and other protective equipment and devices and providing information to residents on what they should do if the air quality index hits a significant threshold. Existing law requires a county to develop a county-specific plan that addresses all of the recommendations and guidelines of the plan developed by the department.

This bill would require the department's plan to be completed on or before June 30, 2026, posted on the department's internet website within 7 days of completion, and distributed within 14 days of completion to specified local and state entities and officers. The bill would require the county-specific plan to incorporate a process to conduct outreach and communicate to the public and with key stakeholders specified information about the plan. The bill would require, after a county-specific plan or a regional multicounty plan is approved by the

county's board of supervisors, a copy of the plan to be distributed to specified local officers and to the local and state public health directors. The bill would require the department to post a copy of each county-specific plan or regional multicounty plan after a plan is adopted by each county within 14 days of receiving each plan. By imposing a higher level of service on local officers, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The bill would also create the Wildfire Smoke Research and Education Fund in the General Fund. The bill would provide that moneys in the fund shall, upon appropriation by the Legislature, be distributed for research on the short-term and long-term adverse health effects of exposure to wildfire smoke, the burned remains after a wildfire, and the fire-retardant materials used in battling a wildfire. The bill would further require the research to examine the health impact on firefighters, individuals who lived in the areas where the fires did damage, and individuals who live in areas impacted by the wildfire smoke.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: yes.

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

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 8593.25 of the Government Code is
- 2 amended to read:
- 3 8593.25. (a) (1) A county, including a city and county, shall,
- 4 in advance of the next update to its emergency plan, use the plan
- 5 developed pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 107250 of the
- 6 Health and Safety Code and develop a county-specific plan that
- 7 addresses all of the recommendations and guidelines of the plan
- 8 developed pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 107250 of the
- 9 Health and Safety Code.
- 10 (2) A county, including a city and county, shall also assign a
- 11 role, department, or agency to serve as a lead with regard to each
- 12 recommendation and guideline in the event of significantly poor

1 air quality caused by wildfires or other sources. If a county,
2 including a city and county, has an existing hierarchy to assign
3 responsibilities in the event of significantly poor air quality caused
4 by wildfires or other sources, the county may incorporate its
5 existing process into its county-specific plan to fulfill this
6 requirement.

7 (b) A county, including a city and county, shall, in advance of
8 the next update to its emergency plan, establish criteria, locations,
9 and measurements of effectiveness for public respite facilities
10 during poor air quality and other weather-related events.

11 (c) A county-specific plan developed pursuant to subdivision
12 (a) shall incorporate a plan to identify personnel to rapidly deploy
13 aid and expertise to disaster areas, and a plan for public outreach
14 to promptly and effectively inform the public about the health
15 threat and what the public should do in response.

16 (d) A county-specific plan developed pursuant to subdivision
17 (a) shall incorporate a process to provide emergency provisions
18 of respiratory protection, air purifiers, medications, and oxygen
19 for people with respiratory and pulmonary diseases, and people
20 suffering symptoms of respiratory and pulmonary diseases. If a
21 county, including a city and county, has an existing process to
22 acquire and distribute emergency provisions, the county may
23 incorporate its existing process into its county-specific plan to
24 fulfill this requirement.

25 *(e) A county-specific plan developed pursuant to subdivision*
26 *(a) shall incorporate a process to conduct outreach and*
27 *communicate to the public and with key stakeholders about the*
28 *plan, what it includes, how it will be implemented, and steps*
29 *stakeholders and other members of the public need to take to be*
30 *prepared in the event of an air quality event caused by wildfires*
31 *or other sources.*

32 ~~(e)~~

33 (f) Two or more counties may establish a multicounty agreement
34 to develop and implement a regional multicounty plan in lieu of
35 each individual county implementing its own plan. A multicounty
36 plan shall be approved by each of the counties' boards of
37 supervisors.

38 (g) *After a county-specific plan or a regional multicounty plan*
39 *is approved by the county's board of supervisors, a copy of the*
40 *plan shall be distributed to all of the following:*

1 (1) *The chief executive, who may be a city manager or a mayor*
2 *of each city within the county, and to the county executive of the*
3 *respective county, including a city and county.*

4 (2) *The director of the county's department of public health,*
5 *and the director of the department of public health for any city in*
6 *their county that has its own public health department.*

7 (3) *The State Public Health Officer.*

8 (4) *The Director of Emergency Services.*

9 SEC. 2. Section 107250 of the Health and Safety Code is
10 amended to read:

11 107250. (a) The State Department of Public Health shall
12 develop a plan with recommendations and guidelines for counties
13 to use in the case of a significant air quality event caused by
14 wildfires or other sources. The plan shall address all of the
15 following:

16 (1) Establishing policies and procedures that address respiratory
17 protection and other protective equipment and devices, including,
18 but not limited to, all of the following:

19 (A) Whether to make respiratory protection and other protective
20 equipment and devices available to county residents.

21 (B) Whether to have stockpiles of respiratory protection and
22 other protective equipment and devices available for distribution.

23 (C) Where to obtain respiratory protection and other protective
24 equipment and devices, if stockpiling.

25 (D) How to distribute respiratory protection and other protective
26 equipment and devices, if stockpiling.

27 (E) How to educate the public on when to use respiratory
28 protection and other protective equipment and devices.

29 (F) Educating the public on keeping respiratory protection and
30 other protective equipment in their homes, offices, and cars.

31 (2) Making available respiratory protection and other protective
32 equipment and devices to residents that are sensitive receptors and
33 are at risk of serious illness or complications resulting from
34 inhaling highly polluted air from a significant air quality event
35 caused by wildfires or other sources.

36 (3) Providing information to residents on what they should do
37 if the air quality index hits a significant threshold.

38 (4) Providing information to residents regarding the health
39 impacts of inhaling air pollution during a significant air quality
40 event caused by wildfires or other sources.

1 (5) Developing prevention strategies to assist residents in
2 avoiding inhalation of air pollutants.

3 (6) Disseminating the information in this subdivision to the
4 public.

5 (b) The recommendations in the plan developed pursuant to
6 subdivision (a) shall include guidance about how a county,
7 including a city and county, informs its residents about all of the
8 following:

9 (1) Unhealthy air quality.

10 (2) The Air Quality Index.

11 (3) The effect of air pollution on an individual's health,
12 including the symptoms someone may experience and where to
13 go for medical assistance.

14 (4) Where an individual can obtain protective respiratory
15 protection and other protective equipment.

16 (5) How and when to use respiratory protection and other
17 protective equipment.

18 (6) How and when an individual needing oxygen or respiratory
19 medications can obtain oxygen or respiratory medications.

20 (7) How to protect children, seniors, the disabled, the
21 homebound, the homeless, those working outdoors, tourists,
22 visitors, non-English speakers, and any others who may have
23 difficulty obtaining or using masks or other protective equipment
24 without assistance.

25 (8) Any other information that is useful for an individual to
26 protect their health, and the health of their loved ones, in the case
27 of significantly poor air quality caused by wildfires or other
28 sources.

29 (c) The plan developed pursuant to subdivision (a) shall also
30 include best practices and recommended protocols for reaching
31 out to inform the general public about the recommendations and
32 guidelines and shall include best practices and recommended
33 protocols for reaching out specifically to vulnerable populations,
34 such as the homeless, elderly, disabled, and homebound.

35 (d) The department shall develop the plan, pursuant to
36 subdivision (a), in consultation with key stakeholders, including,
37 but not limited to, representatives of all of the following:

38 (1) Governor's Office of Emergency Services.

39 (2) State Air Resources Board.

40 (3) Governor's Office of Planning and Research.

- 1 (4) California Department of Aging.
- 2 (5) State Department of Developmental Services.
- 3 (6) Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment.
- 4 (7) Medical professionals focused on respiratory health,
- 5 pulmonology, pediatrics, and emergency medicine.
- 6 (8) Small and large air pollution districts.
- 7 (9) Counties.
- 8 (10) Cities.
- 9 (11) Hospitals.
- 10 (12) Business organizations.
- 11 (13) Nonprofit organizations involved in respiratory health.
- 12 (14) Nonprofit organizations working on behalf of issues for
- 13 individuals with disabilities.
- 14 (15) Nonprofit organizations working on behalf of issues for
- 15 the homeless.
- 16 (16) Nonprofit organizations working on behalf of issues for
- 17 seniors.
- 18 *(e) The plan developed pursuant to subdivision (a) shall be*
- 19 *completed on or before June 30, 2026.*
- 20 *(1) Within seven days of the plan's completion, the plan shall*
- 21 *be posted on the department's internet website.*
- 22 *(2) Within 14 days of the plan's completion, the plan shall be*
- 23 *distributed to all of the following:*
- 24 *(A) The chair of the board of supervisors and chief executive*
- 25 *of each county, including a city and county.*
- 26 *(B) The director of the public health department for each county,*
- 27 *including a city and county.*
- 28 *(C) The director of the office of emergency services for each*
- 29 *county, including a city and county.*
- 30 *(D) The Director of Emergency Services.*
- 31 *(E) The chair of the Assembly Committee on Health and the*
- 32 *chair of the Senate Committee on Health.*
- 33 *(F) The air pollution control officer for each air district.*
- 34 *(G) Each of the stakeholders consulted pursuant to subdivision*
- 35 *(d).*
- 36 *(f) The department shall post a copy of each county-specific*
- 37 *plan or regional multicounty plan developed pursuant to Section*
- 38 *8593.25 of the Government Code after a plan is adopted by each*
- 39 *county, including a city and county, within 14 days of receiving*
- 40 *each plan.*

1 ~~(e)~~

2 (g) The plan developed pursuant to subdivision (a) shall
3 supplement any resources developed by the department, on or
4 before the effective date of this section, for counties to use in the
5 case of a significant air quality event caused by wildfires or other
6 sources.

7 ~~(f)~~

8 (h) For purposes of this chapter, “a significant air quality event”
9 is defined as the period of time in which the duration of exposure
10 and the level of particulate matter, or other indicators of air quality,
11 are likely to result in negative health impacts.

12 SEC. 3. Section 107251 is added to the Health and Safety Code,
13 to read:

14 107251. The Wildfire Smoke Research and Education Fund is
15 hereby created in the General Fund. Moneys in the fund shall,
16 upon appropriation by the Legislature, be distributed for research
17 regarding the short-term and long-term adverse health effects of
18 exposure to wildfire smoke, the burned remains after a wildfire,
19 and the fire-retardant materials used in battling a wildfire. The
20 research shall examine the health impact on firefighters, individuals
21 who lived in the areas where the fires did damage, and individuals
22 who live in areas impacted by the wildfire smoke.

23 SEC. 4. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that
24 this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to
25 local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made
26 pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division
27 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.