

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1200

Introduced by Assembly Member Caloza

February 21, 2025

An act to add Article 4.2 (commencing with Section 8580) to Chapter 7 of Division 1 of Title 2 of the Government Code, relating to emergency services.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1200, as introduced, Caloza. State Lifelines Council.

Existing law establishes the Alfred E. Alquist Seismic Safety Commission in the Office of Emergency Services and requires the commission to, among other things, work with specified agencies to identify key activities and responsibilities related to seismic safety.

This bill would require the Seismic Safety Commission to enter into a partnership with the Strategic Growth Council and the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to identify investments the State of California should make to ensure a rapid recovery from a major disaster, and would require the council to compliment the work of local and regional lifelines councils and bring lifeline providers together to develop postevent performance standards for public and private utility providers. The bill would state related findings and declarations of the Legislature.

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. (a) The Legislature finds and declares the
2 following:

3 (1) The Federal Emergency Management Agency created
4 Community Lifelines to reframe incident information, understand
5 and communicate incident impacts using plain language, and
6 promote unity of effort across the whole community to prioritize
7 efforts to stabilize the lifelines during incident response. While
8 lifelines were developed to support response planning and
9 operations, the concept can be applied across the entire
10 preparedness cycle.

11 (2) Efforts to protect lifelines, prevent and mitigate potential
12 impacts to them, and build back stronger and smarter during
13 recovery will drive overall resilience of the nation. Applying the
14 lifelines construct allows decision-makers to (A) prioritize,
15 sequence, and focus response efforts towards maintaining or
16 restoring the most critical services and infrastructure, (B) utilize
17 a common lexicon to facilitate unity of purpose among all
18 stakeholders, (C) promote a response that facilitates unity of
19 purpose and better communication among the whole community,
20 including federal, state, tribal, territorial, and local governments,
21 and private sector and non-governmental entities, and (D) clarify
22 which components of the disaster are complex or complicated,
23 requiring cross-sector coordination.

24 (3) Lifelines are used to enhance the ability to gain, maintain,
25 and communicate situational awareness for the whole community
26 in responding to disasters; analyze impacts to the various lifelines
27 and develop priority focus areas for each operational period during
28 response; and identify and communicate complex
29 interdependencies to identify major limiting factors hindering
30 stabilization.

31 (b) It is the intent of the Legislature to establish the State
32 Lifelines Council, to be cochaired by the Seismic Safety
33 Commission, the Strategic Growth Council, and the Department
34 of Forestry and Fire Protection, to identify what investments the
35 State of California should make to ensure a rapid recovery from
36 a major disaster to compliment the work of similar local and
37 regional lifelines councils and bring lifeline providers together to
38 develop a unified set of postevent performance standards, both

1 individually and collectively, for public and private utility
2 providers.

3 SEC. 2. Article 4.2 (commencing with Section 8580) is added
4 to Chapter 7 of Division 1 of Title 2 of the Government Code, to
5 read:

6
7 Article 4.2. State Lifelines Council
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9 8580. (a) The Seismic Safety Commission shall enter into a
10 partnership with the Strategic Growth Council and the Department
11 of Forestry and Fire Protection to establish the State Lifelines
12 Council to identify the investments the State of California should
13 make to ensure a rapid recovery from a major disaster.

14 (b) The council shall compliment the work of local and regional
15 lifelines councils and bring lifeline providers together to develop
16 a unified set of postevent performance standards, both individually
17 and collectively, for public and private utility providers.