

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 53

BY TRANSPORTATION AND DEFENSE COMMITTEE

AN ACT

1 RELATING TO THE HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACT;  
 2 AMENDING SECTION 39-7102, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE LEGISLATIVE  
 3 FINDINGS AND PURPOSES; AMENDING SECTION 39-7103, IDAHO CODE,  
 4 TO REVISE DEFINITIONS, TO PROVIDE A CORRECT CODE REFERENCE  
 5 AND TO DEFINE A TERM; AMENDING SECTION 39-7104, IDAHO CODE, TO  
 6 REVISE PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE MILITARY DIVISION'S POWERS AND  
 7 DUTIES; AMENDING SECTION 39-7109, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE PROVISIONS  
 8 RELATING TO REIMBURSEMENT OF CERTAIN COSTS; AND AMENDING  
 9 SECTION 39-7112, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE PROVISIONS RELATING TO  
 10 RECOVERABLE COSTS AND CIVIL REMEDIES.  
 11

12 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

13 SECTION 1. That Section 39-7102, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to  
 14 read as follows:

15 39-7102. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND PURPOSES. (1) The legislature of the state  
 16 of Idaho finds:

- 17 (a) That the state has a duty to protect the health, safety and welfare of the people of  
 18 Idaho;
- 19 (b) That the protection and preservation of Idaho's environment promotes the health,  
 20 safety and welfare of her people;
- 21 (c) That the unexpected and uncontrolled releases and threats of releases of hazardous  
 22 substances constitute a threat to the people and environment of Idaho; and
- 23 (d) That knowledgeable persons, governmental entities and organizations should be  
 24 encouraged to lend expert assistance in the event of a hazardous substance incident.
- 25 (2) Therefore, it is hereby declared that the purposes of the provisions of this chapter are:
- 26 (a) To facilitate emergency response planning and coordination at a state and local level;
- 27 (b) To provide for the prompt response and containment of releases and threats of  
 28 releases of hazardous substances;
- 29 (c) To provide liability for emergency response costs associated with responding to  
 30 hazardous substances incidents;
- 31 (d) To encourage knowledgeable persons, governmental entities and organizations to lend  
 32 assistance by providing them with limited immunity from civil liability; and
- 33 (e) To provide a mechanism for recovery of costs incurred by the state and local  
 34 governments in responding to emergency hazardous substance incidents to be used in  
 35 lieu of, and not in addition to, cost recovery mechanisms or claims for relief provided by  
 36 applicable federal laws. By enacting this chapter, it is the intent of the legislature that the  
 37 state and local governments elect to proceed in state courts under the provisions of this  
 38 chapter and other provisions of state law rather than in federal court under federal laws,

1 where necessary to recover emergency response costs. There is no provision for cost  
 2 recovery for a hazardous substance incident response occurring on private property where  
 3 the owner responds to the incident with the approval of the incident commander.

4 SECTION 2. That Section 39-7103, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to  
 5 read as follows:

6 39-7103. DEFINITIONS. As used in this chapter:

7 (1) "Bureau" means the bureau of homeland security within the military division.

8 (2) "Emergency" means an ~~abrupt~~ actual or potential unexpected, unintended or  
 9 uncontrolled release or threat of release which in the reasonable judgment of the local  
 10 emergency response authority, threatens immediate and irreparable harm to the environment or  
 11 the health and safety of any individual and which requires immediate action for the containment  
 12 or control of a hazardous substance.

13 (3) "Hazardous substance incident" means an emergency circumstance requiring a  
 14 response by the state emergency response team or the local emergency response authority to  
 15 a release or threat of release of an actual or suspected hazardous substance. A hazardous  
 16 substance incident may require containment or confinement or both, but does not include site  
 17 cleanup or remediation efforts after the incident commander has determined the emergency has  
 18 ended.

19 (4) "Hazardous substance" means:

20 (a) Any "hazardous substance" within the scope of section 101(14) of the federal  
 21 comprehensive environmental response, compensation and liability act (CERCLA), 42  
 22 U.S.C. 9601(14);

23 (b) Any hazardous ~~material~~ substance within the scope of section 104 of the federal  
 24 hazardous materials transportation act, 49 U.S.C. ~~1803~~ 5101 et seq., and the federal  
 25 department of transportation regulations promulgated pursuant thereto; and

26 (c) Any extremely hazardous substance within the scope of section 302 of the federal  
 27 emergency planning and community right-to-know act, 42 U.S.C. 11002.

28 (5) "Incident commander" is the person in charge of all responders to a hazardous  
 29 substance incident and who is identified in the Idaho hazardous materials emergency incident  
 30 command and response plan or the private emergency response plan.

31 (6) "Local emergency response authority" means those persons designated under section  
 32 39-7105, Idaho Code, by the city, county, or the military division to be first responders to  
 33 hazardous substance incidents.

34 (7) "Military division" means the military division of the office of the governor.

35 (8) "Person" means any individual, public or private corporation, partnership, joint  
 36 venture, association, firm, trust, estate, the United States or any department, institution, or  
 37 agency thereof, the state or any department, institution, or agency thereof, any municipal  
 38 corporation, county, city, or other political subdivision of the state, or any other legal entity  
 39 whatsoever which is recognized by law as the subject of rights and duties.

40 (9) "Private emergency response plan" means a plan designed to respond to emergency  
 41 releases of hazardous substances at a specific facility or under a specific set of conditions.

42 (10) "Release" means any spilling, leaking, pumping, pouring, emitting, emptying,  
 43 discharging, escaping, dumping or disposing of a hazardous substance into the environment.  
 44 "Release" does not include any discharge of a hazardous substance into the environment which  
 45 is authorized by limits and conditions in a federal or state permit relating to the protection of

1 public health or the environment so long as the permitted activity from which the release occurs  
2 is in compliance with applicable limits and conditions of the permit.

3 (11) "State emergency response team" means one (1) of the state emergency response  
4 teams authorized by the military division to respond to hazardous substance incidents.

5 (12) "Threat of release" means the imminent threat of a release.

6 SECTION 3. That Section 39-7104, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to  
7 read as follows:

8 39-7104. MILITARY DIVISION – POWERS AND DUTIES. (1) The military division  
9 through the bureau of homeland security shall implement the provisions of this chapter and  
10 direct the activities of its staff and, in so doing, the military division may:

11 (a) Through the bureau, in accordance with the laws of the state, hire, fix the  
12 compensation, and prescribe the powers and duties of such other individuals, including  
13 consultants, emergency teams and committees, as may be necessary to carry out the  
14 provisions of this chapter.

15 (b) Create and implement state emergency response teams that have appropriately trained  
16 personnel and necessary equipment to respond to hazardous substance incidents. The  
17 military division shall enter into a written agreement with each entity or person providing  
18 equipment or services to a designated emergency response team. The teams shall be  
19 available and may respond to hazardous substance incidents at the direction of the  
20 military division or its designee or local incident commander.

21 (c) Contract with persons to meet state emergency response needs for the teams and  
22 response authorities.

23 (d) Advise, consult and cooperate with agencies of the state and federal government,  
24 other states and their state agencies, cities, counties, tribal governments and other persons  
25 concerned with emergency response and matters relating to and arising out of hazardous  
26 substance incidents.

27 (e) Encourage, participate in, or conduct studies, investigations, training, research, and  
28 demonstrations for and with state emergency response teams, local emergency response  
29 authorities and other interested persons.

30 (f) Collect and disseminate information relating to emergency response to hazardous  
31 substance incidents.

32 (g) Accept and administer loans, grants, or other funds or gifts, conditional or otherwise,  
33 made to the state for emergency response activities provided for in this chapter.

34 (h) Submit an annual report prior to February 1 to the governor and to the legislature  
35 concerning emergency response to hazardous substance incidents.

36 (i) Prepare, coordinate, implement and update a statewide hazardous materials incident  
37 command and response plan that coordinates state and local emergency response  
38 authorities to respond to hazardous substance incidents within the state for approval  
39 by the legislature. The plan shall address radiation, explosive and weapons of mass  
40 destruction incidents. The Idaho hazardous materials incident command and response  
41 plan shall be consistent with and a part of the Idaho state disaster plan provided in section  
42 46-1006, Idaho Code, after legislative approval.

43 (2) The military division shall have the powers and duties of a state emergency response  
44 commission under the federal emergency planning and community right-to-know act, 42 U.S.C.  
45 section 11001 et seq.

1 (3) The military division may promulgate rules and procedures to govern reimbursement  
2 of claims pursuant to this chapter.

3 (4) All state agencies and institutions will cooperate and provide staff assistance to the  
4 military division in carrying out its duties under this chapter.

5 SECTION 4. That Section 39-7109, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 39-7109. RIGHT TO CLAIM REIMBURSEMENT. (1) ~~The bureau, s~~State emergency  
8 response teams and local emergency response authorities may submit claims to the military  
9 division for reimbursement of the following documented costs incurred as a result of their  
10 response to and containment of a hazardous substance incident:

11 (a) Disposable materials and supplies acquired, consumed and expended specifically for  
12 the purpose of the response;

13 (b) Compensation of employees for the time and efforts devoted specifically to the  
14 response that are not otherwise provided for in the applicant's operating budget, (e.g.,  
15 overtime pay for permanent full-time and other than full-time employees, recalled  
16 personnel or responding when out of jurisdiction);

17 (c) Rental or leasing of equipment used specifically for the response (e.g., protective  
18 equipment or clothing, scientific and technical equipment);

19 (d) Replacement costs for equipment owned by the applicant that is contaminated beyond  
20 reuse or repair, if the applicant can demonstrate that the equipment was a total loss and  
21 that the loss occurred as a result of the response (e.g., self-contained breathing apparatus  
22 irretrievably contaminated during the response);

23 (e) Decontamination of equipment contaminated during the response;

24 ~~(f) Special technical services specifically required for the response (e.g., costs associated~~  
25 ~~with the time and efforts of technical experts/specialists not otherwise provided for by~~  
26 ~~the local government)~~ Technical services and specialists not otherwise provided for which  
27 were used specifically for response and recovery and resources expended by state and  
28 local government for cost recovery;

29 (g) Medical monitoring or treatment of response personnel;

30 (h) Laboratory costs for purposes of analyzing samples taken during the response; and

31 (i) Disposal costs. Such costs may be reimbursed as provided in this chapter.

32 Reimbursement for the costs identified in paragraphs (a) through (c) of this subsection will not  
33 exceed the duration of the response.

34 (2) A private person, who is not a part of the state emergency response team or a local  
35 emergency response authority and is not liable under section 39-7111, Idaho Code, may submit  
36 a claim to the military division for costs identified in section 39-7109, Idaho Code, if their  
37 response was requested by the incident commander.

38 (3) Claims for reimbursement shall be submitted to the military division within sixty  
39 (60) days after termination of the hazardous substance incident for the state's determination of  
40 payment, if any.

41 (4) Reimbursements shall only be paid after the military division finds that the actions  
42 by the state emergency response team or the local emergency response authority were taken in  
43 response to a hazardous substance incident as defined in this chapter.

44 (5) The state of Idaho shall be subrogated to the rights of any such person so reimbursed  
45 to the extent of such reimbursement.

1 SECTION 5. That Section 39-7112, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to  
2 read as follows:

3 39-7112. COST RECOVERY AND CIVIL REMEDIES. (1) The military division shall  
4 be responsible for recovering those costs incurred by the state arising out of a hazardous  
5 substance incident identified in section 39-7109, Idaho Code, and ~~legal~~ other costs including  
6 processing the documented costs submitted by response agencies, attorney's fees, investigation  
7 costs and prelitigation and litigation costs.

8 (2) In deciding whether to commence a cost recovery action, and against whom a cost  
9 recovery action will be filed, the military division in exercising its prosecutorial discretion will  
10 take into consideration the cause of the incident, the total amount of cost incurred in responding  
11 to the incident, the avoidability of the incident and such other factors as the military division  
12 deems appropriate.

13 (3) The remedy for the recovery of those emergency response costs identified in section  
14 39-7109, Idaho Code, provided by this chapter shall be exclusive and shall not be used in  
15 conjunction with or in addition to any other remedy for recovery of such costs provided  
16 by applicable federal laws. Any person who receives compensation for the emergency  
17 response costs pursuant to any other federal or state law shall be precluded from recovering  
18 compensation for such costs pursuant to this chapter. Nothing in this chapter shall otherwise  
19 affect or modify in any way the obligations or liability of any person under any other provision  
20 of state or federal law, including common law, for damages, injury or loss resulting from the  
21 release of any hazardous substance or for remedial action or the cost of remedial action for  
22 such release.

23 (4) It shall be the duty of the attorney general to commence any civil action brought by  
24 the military division pursuant to this chapter. At the request of a political subdivision of the  
25 state or a local governmental entity who has responded to or contained a hazardous substance  
26 incident, the attorney general may commence a civil action on their behalf pursuant to this  
27 chapter.

28 (5) Any person who renders assistance at the request of the incident commander or his  
29 authorized designee in response to a hazardous substance incident may file a civil action under  
30 the provisions of this chapter for recoverable costs which have not been reimbursed by the  
31 state.

32 (6) There is hereby created in the state treasury the hazardous substance emergency  
33 response fund. Recoveries by the state for reimbursed costs shall be deposited in said fund to  
34 offset amounts paid as reimbursement.