

Legislative Analysis



WORKGROUP FOR EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS AND RESILIENCY HUBS

Phone: (517) 373-8080
<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

House Bill 5220 as introduced
Sponsor: Rep. Joey Andrews
Committee: Energy, Communications, and Technology
Complete to 11-6-23

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

SUMMARY:

House Bill 5220 would amend 1939 PA 3, the enabling act of the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC), to create a workgroup to establish a training policy and standardized best practices for first responders during extreme weather events. The bill would also add a provision to the MPSC act to require the Department of State Police to create resiliency hubs in local municipalities.

Workgroup

By January 1, 2025, the MPSC, in conjunction with electric utilities, natural gas utilities, and the Department of State Police, would have to create a workgroup to do both of the following:

- Create standardized best practices that first responders¹ may follow during *extreme weather events*.
- Create a standardized emergency training policy for first responders during extreme weather events.

Extreme weather event would mean an unusually severe weather or climate condition that affects grid stability and results in devastating impacts on communities, agriculture, or natural ecosystems. Extreme weather events would include both events that are short-lived, such as heat waves, freezes, heavy downpours, tornadoes, tropical cyclones, or floods, and conditions that emerge from an accumulation of events that persist over a longer period of time.

Resiliency hubs

By January 1, 2025, the Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division of the Department of State Police would have to either identify or help establish resiliency hubs² in local municipalities. In a county with a population over 100,000, there would have to be at

¹ This term is not defined in the act or the bill. Note that, for purposes of the state's First Responder Training and Recruitment Grant Program, *first responder* means law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians (EMTs), paramedics, and local unit of government corrections officers.

See <https://www.michigan.gov/treasury/-/media/Project/Websites/treasury/Delta/3/2021-PA-0087b.pdf>

² *Resiliency hub* is not defined in the act or the bill. According to Pew Trusts, "Resilience hubs are neighborhood centers that are designed to coordinate culturally sensitive, multilingual services to better meet the needs of diverse groups of community members. In addition to the day-to-day benefits, hubs can provide a safe place for temporary shelter and relief during days of extreme heat, or operate as centers for distributing necessities such as food and multilingual information after disaster events such as floods. Year-round, they can offer space and programming for community-building efforts that increase resilience when emergencies occur." <https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/articles/2020/06/22/resilience-hubs-can-help-communities-thrive-and-better-weather-disasters> For more about resilience hubs, see also https://resilience-hub.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/USDN_ResilienceHub.pdf

least one resiliency hub for every 100,000 residents. In a county with a population of 50,001 to 100,000, there would have to be at least one resiliency hub for every 50,000 residents (i.e., two).³

The bill cannot take effect unless House Bills 5216, 5217, 5219, 5221, and 5222, and an unidentified bill currently designated only by its request number, are also enacted.

Proposed MCL 460.6y

FISCAL IMPACT:

House Bill 5220 would have an indeterminate fiscal impact on the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC). It is unclear whether the MPSC's responsibilities under the bill could be sufficiently absorbed with existing appropriations and resources, or whether additional appropriations would be required to offset the costs. In the event that additional resources were required, the MPSC is financed primarily by public utility assessments levied on the utilities, so any additional incurred costs would likely be factored into the assessment and sufficiently mitigated.

The bill would require the Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division within the Department of State Police to "identify or help establish resiliency hubs in local municipalities." It is unclear whether the costs for these resiliency hubs would be borne by the Department of State Police or by local governments, but it is likely that there would be new associated costs of an indeterminate amount (likely to vary on a community-by-community basis).

Legislative Analyst: Rick Yuille
Fiscal Analyst: Marcus Coffin

■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.

³ For example, Newaygo County (population 50,886) and Livingston County (population 196,161) would each be required to have at least two resiliency hubs.