SENATE BILL REPORT
SB 5919

As of January 12, 2026

Title: An act relating to agriculture practices in unincorporated areas where wildfire danger is present and encouraging fire districts and insurance providers to develop voluntary incentives to promote best practices.

Brief Description: Encouraging fire districts and insurance providers to develop voluntary incentives to promote best practices.

Sponsors: Senator Schoesler.

Brief History:
Committee Activity: Business, Trade & Economic Development: 1/14/26.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Encourages fire districts and insurance providers to collaborate and develop incentives promoting wildfire mitigation best practices related to agricultural activities.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS, TRADE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Staff: William Bridges (786-7312)

Background: Wildfire Mitigation and Resilience. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is responsible for forest fire prevention and response on both private and state-owned forestland in Washington. DNR, in collaboration with other entities, provides guidance, funding, and other forms of assistance to support community resilience and preparedness for wildfires. A number of counties and communities have created community wildfire protection plans.

2025 legislation established the Wildfire Mitigation and Resiliency Standards Work Group, cochaired by the Office of the Insurance Commissioner and the Commissioner of Public

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This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Lands. The workgroup included representatives of rural landowners and the property and casualty insurance industry. The workgroup's report, issued on December 1, 2025, will be heard by Senate Business, Trade & Economic Development Committee during a work session on January 14, 2026.

Fire Districts. Fire protection districts, commonly called fire districts, are independent special purpose districts that provide fire protection and other services, usually in unincorporated areas.

Summary of Bill: Developing Voluntary Incentives that Promote Best Practices for Wildfire Mitigation Related to Agricultural Activities. Fire districts and insurance providers should collaborate to develop incentives that promote wildfire mitigation best practices related to agricultural activities. Incentives should be optional for insurance providers to offer and voluntary for policyholders to accept.

Defining Best Practices. Best practices may include, but are not limited to:

- installation and maintenance of defensible space or fire breaks;
- proper equipment storage;
- installation and maintenance of water tanks;
- ownership of equipment related to wildfire mitigation including, but not limited to, a firefighting apparatus, tractor, or disc harrow; and
- notification for local red flag warnings.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.