

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 3002

As Reported by House Committee On: Appropriations

Title: An act relating to making expenditures from the budget stabilization account for declared catastrophic events.

Brief Description: Relating to making expenditures from the budget stabilization account for declared catastrophic events.

Sponsors: Representative Ormsby.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Appropriations: 3/3/18 [DPS].

Brief Summary of Substitute Bill

- Appropriates a total of \$22.5 million from the Budget Stabilization Account for wildfire costs.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Majority Report: The substitute bill be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass. Signed by 18 members: Representatives Ormsby, Chair; Robinson, Vice Chair; Bergquist, Cody, Fitzgibbon, Hansen, Hudgins, Jinkins, Kagi, Lytton, Pettigrew, Pollet, Sawyer, Senn, Springer, Stanford, Sullivan and Tharinger.

Minority Report: Do not pass. Signed by 13 members: Representatives Chandler, Ranking Minority Member; MacEwen, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Stokesbary, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Buys, Caldier, Condotta, Graves, Haler, Schmick, Taylor, Vick, Volz and Wilcox.

Minority Report: Without recommendation. Signed by 2 members: Representatives Harris and Manweller.

Staff: Kristen Fraser (786-7148).

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

Background:

In 2007 the voters ratified a constitutional amendment that created the Budget Stabilization Account (BSA) as Article VII, section 12 of the Washington Constitution (state Constitution). Each year, the State Treasurer must deposit 1 percent of general state revenues (GSR) into the constitutionally created BSA. The term GSR is defined in the state Constitution and is generally synonymous with the statutory State General Fund.

In general, appropriations from the BSA require a three-fifths majority in each house of the Legislature, but in the case of low employment growth or a state of emergency resulting from a catastrophic event, the Legislature may appropriate from the BSA with a constitutional majority vote of each house.

On September 2, 2017, Governor Inslee declared a state of emergency in all counties due to wildfires.

Summary of Substitute Bill:

The gubernatorial declaration of emergency due to wildfires is cited.

The following expenditures are authorized from the Budget Stabilization Account (BSA):

- For fiscal year 2018, \$2.65 million is appropriated to the Washington State Patrol for fire mobilization costs incurred during the 2017 fire season.
- For fiscal year 2018, \$19.808 million is appropriated to the Department of Natural Resources for fire suppression costs incurred during the 2017 fire season.

The BSA appropriations do not alter the requirement to balance the budget in the ensuing biennium under the state's four-year balanced budget requirement, also known as the State Budget Outlook.

An emergency clause is included, making the bill effective immediately.

Substitute Bill Compared to Original Bill:

The original bill's provisions are removed and replaced with legislative findings, appropriations from the BSA, and an immediate effective date.

Appropriation: The bill contains multiple appropriations. Please see the bill.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date of Substitute Bill: The bill contains an emergency clause and takes effect immediately.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony:

(In support) None.

(Opposed) None.

Persons Testifying: None.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.