Washington State
House of Representatives
Office of Program Research

BILL ANALYSIS

Appropriations Committee

SSB 6100

Brief Description: Making expenditures from the budget stabilization account for declared catastrophic events.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Robinson and Nguyen; by request of Office of Financial Management).

Brief Summary of Substitute Bill

- Appropriates $21,143,000 from the Budget Stabilization Account for fire suppression costs incurred by the Department of Natural Resources during the 2023 fire season.

Hearing Date: 2/15/24

Staff: Dan Jones (786-7118).

Background:

The Budget Stabilization Account (BSA) is an appropriated account originally created in the state Constitution in 2007 and modified in 2011 that may be thought of as an account for operating budget reserves. Funds must be transferred into the BSA each year equal to 1 percent of General State Revenues.

Under certain conditions, additional transfers are required. Funds may be appropriated from the BSA with a constitutional majority under certain periods of forecasted low employment growth, or for declared disasters and limited to that specific purpose. Funds may be appropriated from the BSA with at least a three-fifths vote by the Legislature in all other instances.

On August 19, 2023, the Governor declared a state of emergency in all Washington counties due

---

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.

to threats to life and property from existing and threatened wildfires.

Summary of Bill:

The sum of $21,143,000 is appropriated from the BSA for state fiscal year 2024 and is provided solely for fire suppression costs incurred by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in the 2023 fire season.

Appropriation: The sum of $21,143,000 is appropriated.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

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