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SENATE BILL 6092

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State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By Senators Poulsen, Morton, Prentice and Fraser; by request of Governor Gregoire

Read first time 03/22/2005. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

1 AN ACT Relating to funding actions taken in response to the  
2 declaration of a statewide drought emergency; adding new sections to  
3 2003 1st sp.s. c 25 (uncodified); adding a new section to 2003 1st  
4 sp.s. c 26 (uncodified); making appropriations; and declaring an  
5 emergency.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to 2003 1st sp.s. c  
8 25 (uncodified) to read as follows:

9 (1) The sum of one million eight hundred thousand dollars is  
10 appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2005, from the state  
11 general fund for deposit in the state emergency water projects  
12 revolving account.

13 (2) The sum of one million eight hundred thousand dollars is  
14 appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2005, from the state  
15 emergency water projects revolving account to the department of ecology  
16 for the costs incurred by the department of ecology in taking action  
17 pursuant to the declaration of a statewide drought emergency.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    A new section is added to 2003 1st sp.s. c  
2    25 (uncodified) to read as follows:

3        The sum of two hundred thousand dollars is appropriated for the  
4    fiscal year ending June 30, 2005, from the state general fund to the  
5    department of natural resources for the costs incurred by the  
6    department of natural resources to be able to activate fire fighters to  
7    respond to the heightened risk of forest fires pursuant to the  
8    declaration of a statewide drought emergency.

9        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 3.**    A new section is added to 2003 1st sp.s. c  
10    26 (uncodified) to read as follows:

11        (1)(a) The sum of eight million two hundred thousand dollars is  
12    appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2005, from the state  
13    taxable building construction account for deposit in the state drought  
14    preparedness account for project number 05-4-009.

15        (b) The sum of eight million two hundred thousand dollars is  
16    appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2005, from the state  
17    drought preparedness account to the department of ecology for costs  
18    incurred in responding to the state drought emergency, for project  
19    number 05-4-009.

20        (2)(a) The appropriation in subsection (1)(b) of this section is  
21    provided solely for response to the statewide drought that was declared  
22    pursuant to chapter 43.83B RCW. The department may provide funding or  
23    compensation for purchase or lease of water rights and to public bodies  
24    as defined in RCW 43.83B.050 in connection with projects and measures  
25    designed to alleviate drought conditions which may affect: Public  
26    health and safety, drinking water supplies, agricultural activities, or  
27    fish and wildlife survival.

28        (b) Projects or measures for which funding or compensation will be  
29    provided must be connected with a water system, water source, or water  
30    body which is receiving, or has been projected to receive, less than  
31    seventy-five percent of normal water supply, as the result of natural  
32    drought conditions. This reduction in water supply must be such that  
33    it is causing, or will cause, undue hardship for the entities or fish  
34    or wildlife depending on the water supply. General criteria for  
35    guidelines to be established by the department for distribution of  
36    funds must include: A balanced and equitable distribution of the funds  
37    among the different sectors affected by drought, a funding process that

1 ensures funds are available for drought impacts that arise both early  
2 and later during the course of the drought, and preference for projects  
3 that leverage other federal and local funds.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
5 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the  
6 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect  
7 immediately.

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