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**HOUSE BILL 1125**

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**State of Washington 64th Legislature 2015 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Hawkins, Robinson, Kretz, Sawyer, Johnson, Appleton, Short, Condotta, Tarleton, Haler, and Ryu

AN ACT Relating to expenditures from the economic development strategic reserve account to support economic recovery of businesses due to the wildfires in Okanogan and Chelan counties; and amending RCW 43.330.250.

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

**Sec.**  RCW 43.330.250 and 2014 c 112 s 114 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) The economic development strategic reserve account is created in the state treasury to be used only for the purposes of this section.

(2) Only the governor, with the recommendation of the director of the department of commerce, may authorize expenditures from the account.

(3) During the 2009-2011 and 2011-2013 fiscal biennia, moneys in the account may also be transferred into the state general fund.

(4) Expenditures from the account may be made to prevent closure of a business or facility, to prevent relocation of a business or facility in the state to a location outside the state, or to recruit a business or facility to the state. Expenditures may be authorized for:

(a) Workforce development;

(b) Public infrastructure needed to support or sustain the operations of the business or facility;

(c) Other lawfully provided assistance((~~,~~)) including, but not limited to, technical assistance, environmental analysis, relocation assistance, and planning assistance. Funding may be provided for such assistance only when it is in the public interest and may only be provided under a contractual arrangement ensuring that the state will receive appropriate consideration, such as an assurance of job creation or retention; and

(d) The joint center for aerospace technology innovation.

(5) The funds shall not be expended from the account unless:

(a) The circumstances are such that time does not permit the director of the department of commerce or the business or facility to secure funding from other state sources;

(b) The business or facility produces or will produce significant long-term economic benefits to the state, a region of the state, or a particular community in the state;

(c) The business or facility does not require continuing state support;

(d) The expenditure will result in new jobs, job retention, or higher incomes for citizens of the state;

(e) The expenditure will not supplant private investment; and

(f) The expenditure is accompanied by private investment.

(6) Notwithstanding subsections (2), (4), and (5) of this section, five hundred thousand dollars must be expended from the account for the purpose of supporting economic recovery from the 2014 wildfires in Okanogan county. The director must distribute the funds in this subsection before August 1, 2015, to a nonprofit organization dedicated to the long-term recovery from by the Carlton Complex fire to be used by that organization on economic recovery and development projects.

(7) No more than three million dollars per year may be expended from the account for the purpose of assisting an individual business or facility pursuant to the authority specified in this section.

((~~(7)~~))(8) If the account balance in the ((~~strategic reserve~~)) account exceeds fifteen million dollars at any time, the amount in excess of fifteen million dollars shall be transferred to the education construction account.

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