
HOUSE BILL 2965

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By Representatives Cody, Schmick, Riccelli, Bergquist, Callan, Dufault, Hudgins, Leavitt, Shewmake, Tharinger, Maycumber, Ramos, Ortiz-Self, and Stonier

Read first time 03/02/20.

1 AN ACT Relating to the state's response to the novel coronavirus;
2 amending RCW 38.52.105; adding a new section to chapter 74.46 RCW;
3 making appropriations; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The sum of fifty million dollars is
6 appropriated from the budget stabilization account for the fiscal
7 year ending June 30, 2020, and is provided solely for expenditure
8 into the disaster response account, from which it may be appropriated
9 solely for state and local government response to the novel
10 coronavirus pursuant to the gubernatorial declaration of emergency of
11 February 29, 2020.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The sum of fifty million dollars is
13 appropriated from the disaster response account to the office of
14 financial management for the fiscal biennium ending June 30, 2021,
15 and is provided solely for allotment to state agencies and for
16 distribution to local governments for response to the novel
17 coronavirus pursuant to the gubernatorial declaration of emergency of
18 February 29, 2020.

1 **Sec. 3.** RCW 38.52.105 and 2019 c 415 s 956 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 The disaster response account is created in the state treasury.
4 Moneys may be placed in the account from legislative appropriations
5 and transfers, federal appropriations, or any other lawful source.
6 Moneys in the account may be spent only after appropriation.
7 Expenditures from the account may be used only for support of state
8 agency and local government disaster response and recovery efforts,
9 including response to the novel coronavirus pursuant to the
10 gubernatorial declaration of emergency of February 29, 2020, and to
11 reimburse the workers' compensation funds and self-insured employers
12 under RCW 51.16.220. During the 2017-2019 and 2019-2021 fiscal
13 biennia, expenditures from the disaster response account may be used
14 for military department operations and to support wildland fire
15 suppression preparedness, prevention, and restoration activities by
16 state agencies and local governments. During the 2017-2019 and
17 2019-2021 fiscal biennia, the legislature may direct the treasurer to
18 make transfers of moneys in the disaster response account to the
19 state general fund. It is the intent of the legislature that these
20 policies will be continued in subsequent fiscal biennia.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 74.46
22 RCW to read as follows:

23 The department is authorized to determine nursing facility
24 payments to adequately resource facilities responding to any state of
25 emergency declared by the governor including the 2019 novel
26 coronavirus outbreak. The medicaid payments provided to nursing
27 facilities in response to such state of emergency shall be determined
28 by the department as appropriate to address the immediate safety
29 needs of Washington state citizens and shall not be subject to this
30 chapter's medicaid methodology. Any nursing facility payment made
31 under this section shall not be included in the calculation of the
32 annual statewide weighted average nursing facility payment rate.

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

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