

FINAL BILL REPORT

ESHB 1368

C 3 L 21

Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Responding to the COVID-19 pandemic through state actions supported by federal funding.

Sponsors: House Committee on Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Ormsby, Macri, Ramos, Callan, Gregerson, Berry, Sullivan, Leavitt, Duerr, Bergquist, Kloba, Riccelli, Ramel, Harris-Talley and Pollet).

House Committee on Appropriations
Senate Committee on Ways & Means

Background:

A two-year biennial operating budget is adopted every odd-numbered year. Supplemental budgets frequently are enacted in each of the following two years after adoption of the biennial budget. Appropriations are made in the biennial and supplemental budgets for the operation of state government and its various agencies and institutions, including higher education, as well as allocations for the funding of K-12 public schools. Occasionally, appropriations are made outside the supplemental and biennial budgets for limited purposes such as funding for a specific policy bill or to address a specific matter.

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) virus. The first reported occurrence of COVID-19 in the United States was in January 2020. The federal Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act was enacted on March 6, 2020, and several COVID-19 related federal appropriations acts have occurred since then.

The federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was enacted on March 27, 2020. The CARES act included the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF). The CRF provided approximately \$3 billion for Washington state and local government expenses related to the COVID-19 public health emergency. Funding received directly by the state was authorized for expenditure through the statutory unanticipated receipt process (the

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.

Legislature was not in session when the federal funding was received).

Under the original terms of the CARES Act, to be eligible for CRF, costs had to be incurred by December 30, 2020. The federal Consolidated Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA) was signed into law on December 27, 2020. Among other things, the CRRSA extended the CRF deadline from December 30, 2020, to December 31, 2021, and provided additional funding to Washington to help address the impacts of COVID-19.

Summary:

Excluding appropriations into dedicated accounts, appropriations of approximately \$2.2 billion from federal funds are made from a combination of the federal CRRSA Act, the CRF under the federal CARES Act, and Medicaid for K-12 public schools, public health, healthcare, assistance to individuals and families, housing assistance, and business assistance.

Funding includes:

- \$714 million for assistance to K-12 schools, including \$46 million for non-public school assistance;
- \$618 million for public health, including \$438 million for testing and contact tracing, \$100 million for epidemiology and laboratory grants, and \$68 million for vaccines. This funding is deposited into a newly created non-appropriated account;
- \$365 million for a variety of housing-related items, including rental assistance;
- \$240 million for business assistance grants;
- \$91 million for other income assistance programs, including \$65 million for immigration services, \$12 million for disaster cash assistance, \$9 million for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, and \$5 million for food assistance;
- \$50 million for a variety of childcare-related items; and
- \$26 million for food banks and other food related programs.

Additional detail can be found at fiscal.wa.gov.

Votes on Final Passage:

House	61	36
Senate	47	2

Effective: February 19, 2021