

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 6100

As of January 22, 2024

Title: An act relating to making expenditures from the budget stabilization account for declared catastrophic events.

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

Sponsors: Senators Robinson and Nguyen; by request of Office of Financial Management.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Ways & Means: 1/22/24.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Authorizes appropriations from the Budget Stabilization Account for fire mobilization and suppression.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

Staff: Jed Herman (786-7346)

Background: In 2007 the voters ratified a constitutional amendment that created the Budget Stabilization Account (BSA) as Article VII, section 12 of the Washington Constitution. In general, appropriations from the BSA require a three-fifths majority in each house of the Legislature, but in the case of a catastrophic event or low employment growth, the Legislature may appropriate from the BSA with a constitutional majority vote of each house.

On August 19, 2023, the Governor declared a state of emergency for all of Washington because of the high risk of wildfires throughout the state.

Summary of Bill: For fiscal year 2024, \$19.395 million is appropriated to the Department

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of Natural Resources for fire suppression costs incurred during the 2023 fire season. The BSA appropriations do not alter the requirement to balance the budget in the ensuing biennium under the state's four-year balanced budget requirement, also known as the State Budget Outlook.

Appropriation: The bill contains an appropriation totaling \$19,395,000 from the Budget Stabilization Account.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

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

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: For the 2023 fire season, these were your communities that were impacted. The use of the BSA is consistent with prior measures taken by the Legislature for paying for wildfire costs.

Persons Testifying: PRO: K.D. Chapman-See, Office of Financial Management.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: No one.