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## Appropriations Committee

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### HB 1473

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

**Sponsors:** Representatives Gregerson, Callan and Ormsby; by request of Office of Financial Management.

Brief Summary of Bill
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Appropriates \$72,442,000 from the Budget Stabilization Account for fire suppression costs incurred by the Department of Natural Resources during the 2024 fire season.</li></ul>



**Hearing Date:** 2/6/25

**Staff:** Dan Jones (786-7118).

**Background:**

The Budget Stabilization Account (BSA) is an appropriated account originally created in the state Constitution in 2007 that may be thought of as an account for operating budget reserves. Funds must be transferred into the BSA each year equal to 1 percent of General State Revenues (GSR). The term GSR is defined in the state Constitution and is generally synonymous with General Fund-State. Under certain conditions, additional transfers to the BSA are required.

Funds may be appropriated from the BSA with a constitutional majority under certain periods of forecasted low employment growth, or for declared disasters and limited to that specific purpose. Funds may be appropriated from the BSA with at least a three-fifths vote by the Legislature in all other instances. On August 2, 2024, Governor Inslee declared a state of emergency in all Washington counties due to threats to life and property from existing and

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threatened wildfires.

**Summary of Bill:**

The sum of \$72,442,000 is appropriated from the BSA for fiscal year 2025 and is provided solely for fire suppression costs incurred by the Department of Natural Resources in the 2024 fire season.

**Appropriation:** The sum of \$72,442,000 is appropriated from the Budget Stabilization Account.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

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