

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5441

As of February 26, 2025

Title: An act relating to accounts.

Brief Description: Concerning accounts.

Sponsors: Senators Stanford and Nobles; by request of Office of Financial Management.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Ways & Means: 2/26/25.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Eliminates certain accounts which are inactive or have no cash balance.
- Modifies the Broadband Mapping Account.
- Redirects certain dedicated revenue sources.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

Staff: Samuel Brown (786-7470)

Background: In addition to the State General Fund, which may be expended for any lawful purpose, the state maintains several hundred accounts dedicated to particular statutory purposes. These accounts generally fall into one of the three following categories:

- accounts located in the state Treasury, which require appropriation by the Legislature;
- accounts held in the custody of the state treasurer, which may or may not require legislative appropriation; and
- accounts located in state agencies and institutions of higher education, known as local accounts, which may require approval by the Office of Financial Management.

Accounts are generally created in policy bills for the purpose of dedicating moneys in the account for the policy purposes of the bill. Accounts are also created in omnibus

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appropriation bills to dedicate funding for specific purposes and appropriations.

Expenditures from dedicated accounts are limited to the purposes defined in law, and therefore, legislative action is required to temporarily or permanently expand or further restrict the purposes of a dedicated account. Expenditures from accounts which do not require legislative appropriation must be authorized by an official designated in the statute creating the account.

Summary of Bill: Accounts Repealed. The following accounts are repealed and residual amounts, if any, in the eliminated accounts are transferred as follows:

- Juvenile Accountability Incentive Account—to the State General Fund;
- Internet Consumer Access Account—zero fund balance;
- Opportunity Express Account—to the Employment Service Administration Account;
- Washington State Flag Account—zero fund balance;
- Commemorative Works Account—to the Enterprise Services Account;
- Building Communities Fund Account—zero fund balance;
- Millersylvania Park Trust Fund—to the Millersylvania Park Current Account;
- State Social and Health Services Construction Account—to the State General Fund;
- Education Construction Fund—to the Common School Construction Fund;
- Produce Railcar Pool Account—to the Multimodal Transportation Account;
- Guaranteed Asset Protection Waiver Account—to the State General Fund;
- Opportunity Expansion Account—to the State General Fund; and
- Energy Independence Act Special Account—zero fund balance.

Broadband Mapping Account. The Broadband Mapping Account is renamed the Federal Broadband Account. The allowable uses are modified and the account is changed from a nonappropriated account in the custody of the state treasurer to an appropriated account in the state Treasury.

Deposit Locations Changed. Moneys previously deposited in the Washington State Flag Account will be deposited in the Secretary of State's Revolving Fund. Moneys previously deposited in the Guaranteed Asset Protection Waiver Account will be deposited in the State General Fund. Certain penalties related to the medical cannabis authorization database previously deposited in the Health Professions Account will be deposited in the Dedicated Cannabis Account.

Other Provisions. A reference to the Behavioral Health Loan Repayment and Scholarship Program Account is corrected.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on February 22, 2025.

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

Effective Date: The bill contains several effective dates. Please refer to the bill.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: This is a series of recommendations from OFM Statewide Accounting made in conjunction with the Office of the State Treasurer.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Sheri Sawyer, OFM.

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