

HOUSE BILL ANALYSIS

HB 2267

Brief Description: Creating the Disaster Response Account in the State Treasury.

Background: Washington experienced four major natural disasters during the 95-97 biennium that resulted in millions of dollars worth of damages to public and private property. Due to the magnitude of the damages, presidential disaster declarations were granted. The Emergency Management Division in the Military Department, in cooperation with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), administers state and local disaster recovery efforts.

Once the president declares a disaster, the state becomes eligible for federal assistance under programs administered by the FEMA. To receive federal assistance under one of these programs, 25 percent matching funds are usually required. During the 1995-97 biennium, the legislature transferred general fund-state money to the Flood Control Assistance Account in order to pay for state and local matching funds. The Flood Control Assistance Account is administered by the Department of Ecology and is used to provide grants to local governments for flood control planning and structures.

Summary: A Disaster Response Account is created in the state treasury. Moneys may be appropriated from the account only to support state agency and local government disaster response and recovery efforts.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.