

FINAL BILL REPORT

SB 5923

C 157 L 19
Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Establishing an emergency loan program to be administered by the county road administration board.

Sponsors: Senators Hobbs, King and Lovelett.

Senate Committee on Transportation
House Committee on Transportation

Background: The County Road Administration Board (CRAB) is a nine member board comprised of six county commissioners or councilmembers and three county engineers. The nine member CRAB was created by the Legislature in 1965 to provide statutory oversight of Washington's 39 county road departments. CRAB administers the Rural Arterial Program, the County Arterial Preservation Program, and the County Ferry Capital Improvement Program.

Under certain conditions, CRAB can provide funding for emergency projects from the Rural Arterial Trust Account (RATA). To be eligible for such emergency funds, the requesting county must declare an emergency. The requesting county's eligibility for RATA funding in the next funding period is also reduced by the amount of RATA funding provided. If the county's eligible funding is insufficient, the requesting county must withdraw, amend, or delay a project equal to the RATA funding provided.

Summary: CRAB is authorized to create a self-supporting emergency revolving loan program for counties with a population of fewer than 800,000 people. CRAB must report on various aspects of the program by December 1st of even-numbered years. The CRAB Emergency Loan Account is created as a non appropriated fund in the custody of the state treasurer and the account will retain its own interest.

Loans from the program may only go to eligible counties where a county, state, or federal disaster has been declared. The county receiving a loan must agree to repay the loan to the program, with interest of not more than 3 percent. A loan from the program must be used for road or bridge work that:

- is necessary due to a natural or manmade event for which a disaster was declared;
- causes a roadway section or structure to be closed or substantially restricted to normal use; and

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- is beyond the scope of work done by the county in restoring damages normally or reasonably expected to occur.

Votes on Final Passage:

Senate	48	0
House	98	0

Effective: July 28, 2019