

Subject Easement Stewardship Accounts

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Summary

This bill would make changes related to two easement stewardship accounts (the water and soil conservation easement stewardship account and the mitigation easement stewardship account) that provide money to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) for costs associated with managing easements held by the board. The bill would expand the allowable uses of the accounts to include repairing or replacing structures and maintaining vegetation and hydrology. The bill would also allow the board to request money from the accounts, in addition to the five percent that is annually appropriated to the board from those accounts, when money is needed to cover certain costs, including legal compliance costs, repairing or replacing structures, and maintaining vegetation and hydrology. The bill would also require the board to include the estimated costs for repairing or replacing structures and maintaining vegetation when calculating the financial contribution made to the account when an easement is acquired.