

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill would provide state disaster relief to eligible entities. It authorizes financial aid to eligible local governments and American Indian tribes; matches federal transportation dollars for road repair; and funds erosion, sediment, and water-quality cost-share projects on private land. Eligibility for erosion, sediment, and water-quality cost-share projects would be limited to projects within the 37 counties and three tribal areas included in Presidential Declaration of Major Disaster DR-4182 (June-July 2014 storms).

In 2014, the legislature established the disaster assistance contingency account to provide (1) matching money for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) assistance to qualifying public entities in presidentially-declared major disaster counties, and (2) state disaster aid under a new state program that reimburses local units of government and American Indian tribes for eligible costs if the entities sustained significant damage but were not eligible under federal law for FEMA assistance. Under item (1), funds in the contingency account are available to assist eligible entities located in any presidentially declared major disaster area – i.e., eligibility is not limited to the most recent presidentially declared disaster.

Section

- 1 Emergency management transfer.** Requires the commissioner of management and budget to transfer \$6,850,000 from the general fund to the disaster assistance contingency account. By law, this money would be available to (1) the Department of Public Safety to match FEMA assistance provided to state agencies, local units of government, and American Indian

Section

tribes that sustained eligible damages within presidentially-declared major disaster areas, and (2) local units of government and American Indian tribes that are eligible under the new (2014) state-only disaster assistance program described in the overview above.

- 2 **Transfer of unexpended appropriations.** Transfers unexpended 2011 disaster relief appropriations to the disaster assistance contingency account. This money would also be available to the Department of Public Safety for the purposes described above.
- 3 **Department of transportation; appropriation.** Appropriates \$3 million from the general fund to the commissioner of transportation to match federal aid to repair local roads damaged by flooding in June 2014.
- 4 **Board of Water and Soil Resources.** Appropriates \$2,476,000 from the general fund to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) for erosion, sediment, and water quality cost-share projects in the 37 counties and three tribal areas that are included in Presidential Declaration of Major Disaster DR-4182 (2014). Authorizes BWSR to use disaster relief money previously appropriated by the legislature in 2012 for projects within the 2014 disaster area. Authorizes BWSR to develop alternative project standards and procedures.
- 5 **Effective date.** All sections are effective the day after final enactment.