

Subject State Aid For Emergencies (SAFE) Account

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Overview

This bill creates the State Aid For Emergencies (SAFE) account as a state contingency fund to reimburse local communities and state agencies for public safety overtime and staffing costs provided through mutual aid after significant critical incidents occur. The bill also requires the POST Board to create a model policy on public assembly response and for law enforcement agencies to adopt a public assembly response policy.

Summary

Section	Description
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1	State Aid For Emergencies (SAFE); public safety reimbursement for extraordinary or unplanned incidents.
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Subd. 1. Purpose. Declares the purpose of the SAFE account which is to reimburse local governments and state agencies for providing mutual public safety aid during extraordinary public safety events.

Subd. 2. Definitions. Defines terms used in this section.

Subd. 3. State Aid For Emergencies (SAFE) account; appropriation. Creates the SAFE account in the special revenue fund. Annually appropriates money deposited in the account to the commissioner of public safety to fund reimbursement requests submitted under this section.

Subd. 4. Eligibility criteria; considerations.

Para. (a) Describes the limited costs that are eligible for reimbursement from the SAFE account, which include overtime costs, logistical needs, incidental supplies, backfill personnel costs, damaged equipment, threat mitigation costs, indemnification, and after action review costs.

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Para. (b) Authorizes the commissioner to reimburse other states that offer aid to the state for qualifying expenses.

Para. (c) Authorizes the commissioner to deny a grant application if the applicant refused either the commissioner's request to observe the response to the public safety event or rejects the commissioner's offer of advice and counsel.

Para. (d) Establishes a presumption that emergency personnel responding to an emergency in another jurisdiction are considered to be acting within the scope and in the course of their regular employment.

Subd. 5. Reimbursement rates. Establishes the following reimbursement rates for eligible costs:

- 1) receiving jurisdiction – 75 percent; and
- 2) sending jurisdiction – 100 percent.

Subd. 6. Reimbursement process.

Para. (a) Directs the commissioner to develop reimbursement application materials.

Para. (b) Describes the timing and content requirements for filing an application.

Para. (c) Authorizes applicants 60 days to file additional materials.

Para. (d) Describes the commissioner's duties in reviewing applications.

Para. (e) Grants applicants 30 days to reply to a request for additional information.

Para. (f) Requires the commissioner to rule on applications within 60 days. Failure to act on a complete application within 60 days deems the application approved.

Subd. 7. Appeal process. Establishes standards for an applicant to appeal the commissioner's denial.

Subd. 8. Closeout of application. Establishes criteria for the commissioner to close out an application.

Subd. 9. Audit. Requires applicants to account for all funds received from the SAFE account. Establishes recordkeeping standards and document retention requirements for recipients.

Section	Description
	<p>Subd. 10. Reporting reimbursement payments. Requires the commissioner to identify reimbursement recipients and the amounts of reimbursement on the agency's website.</p> <p>Subd. 11. Management costs. Authorizes the department to recoup from the SAFE account up to five percent of grant values to cover the costs of managing SAFE reimbursement.</p> <p>Subd. 12. Funding from other sources; repayment required. Requires applicants to reimburse the SAFE account for any costs that are reimbursed from other sources.</p> <p>Subd. 13. After action review required. Requires a receiving jurisdiction to complete an after action review and submit a report to the commissioner as a condition of receiving a grant under this section.</p> <p>Effective date. Establishes the day following final enactment as the effective date for this section.</p>
2	<p>POST Board; compliance reviews required.</p> <p>Requires the POST Board to conduct a compliance review of law enforcement agencies that participate in a response to a major public safety event, including events that qualify for reimbursement under section 1.</p>
3	<p>Public assembly response; policies required; application.</p> <p>Requires the POST Board to develop a model policy on public assembly response and for law enforcement agencies to adopt a public assembly response policy based on the model policy. Authorizes the POST Board to conduct a compliance review of an agency to ensure compliance with the agency's public assembly response policy.</p>
4	<p>Peace officers; declaration of policy.</p> <p>States the policy of the state regarding the role of front line workers, first responders, and peace officers.</p>
5	<p>State Aid For Emergencies (SAFE) account; transfer.</p> <p>Transfers \$35,000,000 from the general fund to the SAFE account in FY 2021.</p> <p>Effective date. Establishes the day following final enactment as the effective date for this section.</p>



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