BILL REQ. #: Z-0551.1/22

ATTY/TYPIST: ML:eab

BRIEF DESCRIPTION: Concerning accounts for state drought planning, preparedness, and response.
AN ACT Relating to accounts for state drought planning, preparedness, and response; reenacting and amending RCW 43.83B.430; and adding new sections to chapter 43.83B RCW.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

Sec. 1. RCW 43.83B.430 and 2022 c 297 s 957 and 2022 c 296 s 7008 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

The state drought preparedness account is created in the state treasury. All receipts from appropriated funds designated for the account and all cost recovery revenues collected under RCW 43.83B.410(5) must be deposited into the account. At the beginning of each biennium, the state treasurer shall transfer into the account from the general fund the sum of $3,000,000. Expenditures from the account may be used for drought planning and preparedness activities under this chapter, including grants issued under RCW 43.83B.415. During the 2021-2023 fiscal biennium, moneys in the account may be used for water banking pilot projects. Moneys in the account may be spent only after appropriation. During the 2021-2023 fiscal biennium, the legislature may appropriate moneys from the account for activities related to water banking.
NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. A new section is added to chapter 43.83B RCW to read as follows:

Based on schedules the department submits to the director of financial management during a drought emergency order under RCW 43.83B.405, the state treasurer shall transfer from the general fund, or such funds as the state treasurer deems appropriate, to the emergency drought response account created in section 3 of this act, such amounts as necessary to meet unbudgeted emergency drought response expenses. The department shall, at a minimum, provide schedules to the director of financial management on a quarterly basis, and shall also provide the director of financial management, legislative fiscal committees, and the joint legislative committee on water supply during drought, created in RCW 90.86.010, with a close-out cost summary following the expiration of the emergency drought order.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. A new section is added to chapter 43.83B RCW to read as follows:

The emergency drought response account is created in the custody of the state treasurer. All receipts from funds received pursuant to section 2 of this act must be deposited into the account. The account may also receive those moneys as may be appropriated by the legislature for the purpose of funding emergency drought response actions. Expenditures from the account may be used only for the costs of implementing the powers set forth in RCW 43.83B.410, 43.83B.415, and 43.83B.420 for drought emergency response. Only the director of the department or the director's designee may authorize expenditures from the account. The account is subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but an appropriation is not required for expenditures.