



ARIZONA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Fifty-sixth Legislature
Second Regular Session

HB 2193: appropriation; fire suppression mitigation projects

Sponsor: Representative Cook, LD 7

Committee on Military Affairs & Public Safety

Overview

Allows the State Forester to incur liabilities for mitigation projects and caps the liabilities for the mitigation projects at \$35,000,000.

History

The State Forester is responsible for the direction, operation and control of the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management ([A.R.S. § 37-1301](#)). The State Forester has the authority to prevent, manage or suppress any wildfires on various state and private lands. The State Forester may enter into cooperative agreements with other state and federal agencies, departments, political subdivisions and any other person for the prevention and suppression of wildfires ([A.R.S. § 37-1303](#)).

The [Budget Stabilization Fund](#) (BSF) is designed to *set monies aside during above-trend economic growth and to utilize these monies during below-trend growth*. The BSF is administered by the State Treasurer, who is responsible for transferring monies to and from the BSF. *The BSF is also known as the Rainy-Day Fund.*

Provisions

1. Authorizes the continuous appropriation of monies from the BSF to the State Treasurer to pay for mitigation project claims by the State Forester. (Sec. 1)
2. Stipulates not more than \$35,000,000 in unreimbursed claims may be outstanding from BSF at any time for the purpose of the State Forester's mitigation project claims. (Sec. 1)
3. Permits the State Forester to incur liabilities for mitigation projects. (Sec. 2)
4. Caps the maximum liabilities incurred for mitigation projects at \$35,000,000 per fiscal year. (Sec. 2)
5. Directs the State Forester to pay a claim with monies appropriated from the BSF within 30 days of receiving it, provided that such monies have not been committed to the payment of other mitigation project claims. (Sec. 2)
6. Stipulates that the State Forester may incur obligations, on the BSF for the purpose of mitigation projects, only when one or more of the following conditions is met:
 - a) no other appropriation or authorization is available;
 - b) an appropriation is insufficient to meet a contingency or emergency; or
 - c) federal monies are available but require the use of state monies. (Sec. 2)

<input type="checkbox"/> Prop 105 (45 votes)	<input type="checkbox"/> Prop 108 (40 votes)	<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency (40 votes)	<input type="checkbox"/> Fiscal Note
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7. Directs the State Forester to review all liabilities incurred and expenditures made and to report such to the Arizona Department of Administration for an audit. (Sec. 2)
8. Instructs the State Forester to send a copy of the report to the State Emergency Council. (Sec. 2)
9. Requires the State Forester to adopt rules for administering mitigation project monies. (Sec. 2)
10. Defines *mitigation project* as a project to address post-fire flooding and other damage that may occur as a result of fires or fire suppression activities and includes upgrades, maintenance and reconstruction to existing flood mitigation infrastructure. (Sec. 2)