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State of Misconsin 2019 - 2020 LEGISLATURE

LRB-5391/1 MCP&JK:ahe

2019 SENATE BILL 779

February 6, 2020 – Introduced by Senators Smith, Olsen, Larson, Risser and Schachtner, cosponsored by Representatives Shankland, Nygren, Novak, Pope, Hebl, Billings, Anderson, Brostoff, Cabrera, Considine, Fields, Gruszynski, Hesselbein, Kitchens, Kolste, Krug, Neubauer, Ohnstad, Sargent, Sinicki, Spiros, Spreitzer, Stubbs, Subeck, C. Taylor, Tusler and Vruwink. Referred to Committee on Government Operations, Technology and Consumer Protection.

AN ACT to amend 25.60 and 299.97 (2); and to create 13.59, 20.855 (4) (fb), 25.44

and 299.87 of the statutes; **relating to:** creating the water fund for our future.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill creates a new nonlapsible trust fund, designated as the water fund for our future, to consist of \$10,000,000 transferred biennially from the general fund. Under the bill, the Joint Committee on Finance may at any time transfer any amount of the unencumbered balance from the fund to the budget stabilization fund, if the budget stabilization fund has been fully expended.

The bill also creates the Joint Committee for the Oversight of the Water Fund for Our Future. Under the bill, the committee receives applications for making expenditures from the fund and makes recommendations to JCF regarding use of the fund.

Under the bill, the committee may also recommend to JCF an amount to transfer to a rapid response account created within the water fund for our future, which may be used by the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Health Services to respond to natural disasters and public health emergencies. Funds from the rapid response account may be used for the costs of remediation and to notify, relocate, and assist people affected by the natural disaster or public health emergency.

The bill also allows DNR and the Department of Justice to seek reimbursement from responsible parties for funds expended from the water fund for our future.

Finally, the bill allows any agency to submit a request to JCF for supplemental funds from the water fund for our future. JCF may approve the request after

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considering any recommendation from the Joint Committee for the Oversight of the Water Fund for Our Future.

For further information see the *state and local* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. 13.59 of the statutes is created to read:

- 13.59 Joint committee for the oversight of the water fund for our future. (1) CREATION. There is created a joint standing committee for the oversight of the water fund for our future composed of 3 majority party and 2 minority party senators and 3 majority party and 2 minority party representatives to the assembly, appointed as are the members of standing committees in their respective houses.
- (2) Officers. In making appointments of the members of each house, each house shall designate a cochairperson.
- (3) STAFF. The committee shall be staffed as are other standing committees of the legislature.
- (4) Meetings. The committee shall meet as often as necessary to perform its duties and functions.
 - (5) POWERS AND DUTIES. (a) The committee shall do all of the following:
- 1. Receive applications for making expenditures from the water fund for our future and make recommendations to the joint committee on finance regarding use of the water fund for our future.
- 2. Recommend to the joint committee on finance an amount to transfer from the water fund for our future to the rapid response account under s. 25.44 (3).

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(b) The committee may not recommend, and the joint committee on finance may not approve, expenditures from the water fund for our future for purposes other than to fund activities relating to clean water. **Section 2.** 20.005 (3) (schedule) of the statutes: at the appropriate place, insert the following amounts for the purposes indicated: 2019-20 2020-21 Miscellaneous appropriations 20.855 **(4)** TAX, ASSISTANCE AND TRANSFER PAYMENTS (fb) Transfer to the water fund for our future **GPR** 5,000,000 5,000,000 В **Section 3.** 20.855 (4) (fb) of the statutes is created to read: 20.855 (4) (fb) Transfer to the water fund for our future. Biennially, from the general fund, the amounts in the schedule to be transferred to the water fund for our future. **Section 4.** 25.44 of the statutes is created to read: **25.44 Water fund for our future.** (1) There is established a separate nonlapsible trust fund designated as the water fund for our future, to consist of all moneys transferred under s. 20.855 (4) (fb) and all moneys collected by the department of natural resources or the department of justice under settlement agreements or orders in settlement of actions or proposed actions as reimbursement for expenditures from this fund. (2) The joint committee on finance may at any time transfer any amount of the

unencumbered balance from this fund to the budget stabilization fund if the moneys

in the budget stabilization fund have been fully expended.

(3) There is established in the water fund for our future a rapid response account consisting of all moneys transferred to the account by the joint committee on finance, which may at any time transfer any amount of the unencumbered balance from the water fund for our future to the rapid response account. Moneys in the rapid response account shall be reserved for discretionary use by the department of natural resources and the department of health services under s. 299.87.

Section 5. 25.60 of the statutes is amended to read:

25.60 Budget stabilization fund. There is created a separate nonlapsible trust fund designated as the budget stabilization fund, consisting of moneys transferred to the fund from the general fund under ss. 16.518 (3) and 16.72 (4) (b) and any moneys transferred to the fund from the water fund for our future under s. 25.44. Moneys in the budget stabilization fund are reserved to provide state revenue stability during periods of below-normal economic activity when actual state revenues are lower than estimated revenues under s. 20.005 (1).

Section 6. 299.87 of the statutes is created to read:

299.87 Rapid response; supplemental funding requests from the water fund for our future. (1) The department and the department of health services may use moneys from the rapid response account of the water fund for our future under s. 25.44 to respond to natural disasters and public health emergencies. Funds from the rapid response account may be used for the costs of remediation and to notify, relocate, and assist people affected by the natural disaster or public health emergency. The department and the department of health services may promulgate rules as necessary to establish procedures and policies for the use of moneys from the rapid response account.

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(2) Any department may submit to the joint committee on finance for consideration under s. 13.10 a request for funding from the water fund for our future. The joint committee on finance shall notify the joint committee for the oversight of the water fund for our future of the request. After receiving notification of a request, and at least 14 working days before the next regularly scheduled meeting of the joint committee on finance under s. 13.10, the joint committee for the oversight of the water fund for our future shall submit to the joint committee on finance a written recommendation regarding the request. The joint committee on finance may provide the requested supplement only if the joint committee for the oversight of the water fund for our future recommends approving the request.

Section 7. 299.97 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

299.97 (2) In addition to the penalties provided under sub. (1), the court may award the department of justice the reasonable and necessary expenses of the investigation and prosecution of the violation, including attorney fees. The department of justice shall deposit in the state treasury for deposit into the general fund all moneys that the court awards to the department or the state under this subsection, except that any moneys awarded as reimbursement for expenditures from the water fund for our future shall be deposited into that fund. The costs of investigation and the expenses of prosecution, including attorney fees, shall be credited to the appropriation account under s. 20.455 (1) (gh).

(END)