

1999 DRAFTING REQUEST

Bill

Received: 01/18/2000

Received By: gibson

Wanted: As time permits

Identical to LRB:

For: Robert Cowles (608) 266-0484

By/Representing: Jennifer Halbur

This file may be shown to any legislator: NO

Drafter: rkite

May Contact:

Alt. Drafters:

Subject: Nat. Res. - forests and parks

Extra Copies:

Pre Topic:

No specific pre topic given

Topic:

Cap on forest fire emergency appropriations

Instructions:

See Attached

Drafting History:

<u>Vers.</u>	<u>Drafted</u>	<u>Reviewed</u>	<u>Typed</u>	<u>Proofed</u>	<u>Submitted</u>	<u>Jacketed</u>	<u>Required</u>
/1	rkite 01/19/2000	wjackson 01/20/2000	jfrantze 01/20/2000	_____	lrb_docadmin 01/20/2000	lrb_docadminState 01/27/2000	

FE Sent For:

3/7/00

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1/?	rkite	11 WJ 1/20	8/1/20	To Self 1/20			

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<END>

MEMBER:
Joint Committee on Finance

ROBERT L. COWLES

Wisconsin State Senator • 2nd Senate District

1-18-00

To: Rebecca Tradewell

From: Jennifer Halbur

Re: Forestry Account Draft

Rob would like to introduce legislation that would increase the forest fire emergency appropriation cap to \$1,000,000.

The DNR is expecting to receive funds in February that will be appropriated to the general forestry account if the current \$500,000 forest fire emergency appropriation is not increased.

I have enclosed a DNR memo which provides the requested modification of statute 26.11 (7) (a).

If you have any questions, please contact me at 266-0484.

Office:
Room 305, 119 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882
608-266-0484

Toll free Hotline: 1-800-334-1465
TDD Hotline: 1-800-228-2115
Fax 608-267-0304

Printed on Recycled Paper

Home:
300 W. St. Joseph Street, #23
Green Bay, WI 54301-2328
414-448-5092

RESPONSE/MEMORANDUM

ROUTE TO:

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RC ___ F ___ TH ___
SD ___ RF ___ C/W ___

DATE: December 2, 1999

TO: Senator Robert Cowles

FROM: Gene Francisco *Gene Francisco*

SUBJECT: Forest Fire Emergency Appropriations – Proposed Statute Change

Recently, you requested statute language for increasing the maximum size of the Forest Fire Emergency appropriations. Attached is an issue brief which outlines the purpose of the change and provides a recommended modification to the existing statute.

Cc: G. Meyer AD/5
P. Heinen AD/5
S. Miller AD/5
P. DeLong FR/4

Forest Fire Emergency Appropriation

Proposed Statute Change

Requested Revision of Statute 26.11 (7) (a)

Problem Identification: Statute 26.11 (7) (a) caps the size of the forest fire emergencies appropriations at \$500,000. Recent fires in other states have shown that fire suppression costs can easily exceed one million dollars. Presently, the associated appropriations 20.370 (1) (cs and mz) have a total unencumbered balance of \$500,000.

Because the appropriations are at the maximum authorized level, reimbursements from Texas and the US Forest Service that will be received in February, 2000, will be deposited to the Forestry Account and not to the emergencies appropriation. A reimbursement of approximately \$300,000 is anticipated. 1995

Background/Analysis: Wisconsin Act 27 created two new segregated, continuing appropriations related to forest fire payments: 20.370 (1) (cs) for reimbursements from other states and 20.370 (1) (mz) for reimbursements from federal agencies. Act 27 also created statute 26.11 (7), which describes the lapsing process. The objective of the legislation was to build a balance of up to \$500,000 in these appropriations from the out-of-state fire fighting reimbursements.

Funding is provided from the reimbursements from the Federal Government and other States for sending Wisconsin fire fighters out-of-state to assist with major fire suppression efforts.

Presently, the appropriations are full with a combined balance of \$500,000.

These fire emergency appropriations will be utilized during severe fire seasons when fire management expenditures exceed available spending authority. Annually, if the combined unencumbered balances in the two appropriations exceed \$500,000 at the close of a fiscal year, the excess amount lapse to the Conservation Fund.

Request: This is a request for authorization to accumulate \$1,000,000 within the forest fire emergency appropriations. A modification of the existing authorization, statute 26.11 (7) (a), is required.

Requested modification of statute 26.11 (7) (a):

Notwithstanding s. 20.001 (3) (c), if the sum of the unencumbered balances in the appropriation accounts under s. 20.370 (1) (cs) and (mz) exceeds ~~\$500,000~~ \$1,000,000 on June 30 of any fiscal year, the amount in excess of ~~\$500,000~~ \$1,000,000 shall lapse from the appropriation account under s. 20.370 (1) (cs) to the conservation fund, except as provided in par. (b).



State of Wisconsin
1999 - 2000 LEGISLATURE

LRB-4259/1
RNK...:/:....
Wlj

1999 BILL

Gen Cat

1 AN ACT ...; relating to: the unencumbered balances in the appropriation
2 accounts to which moneys for fighting forest fires are credited.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, moneys that the department of natural resources (DNR) receives from the federal government and from other states for forest fire fighting activities provided by DNR are credited to two appropriation accounts. The moneys in those accounts must be used for forest fire fighting activities. Current law provides that if the sum of the unencumbered balances in those accounts exceeds \$500,000 at the close of the fiscal year, the excess amounts lapse to the conservation fund. This bill increases the ceiling above which the amounts in those accounts are lapsed to the conservation fund to \$1,000,000.

For further information see the *state* 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:

3 SECTION 1. 26.11 (7) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:
4 26.11 (7) (a) Notwithstanding s. 20.001 (3) (c), if the sum of the unencumbered
5 balances in the appropriation accounts under s. 20.370 (1) (cs) and (mz) exceeds

BILL

1 ~~\$500,000~~ \$1,000,000 on June 30 of any fiscal year, the amount in excess of \$500,000
2 \$1,000,000 shall lapse from the appropriation account under s. 20.370 (1) (cs) to the
3 conservation fund, except as provided in par. (b).

History: 1977 c. 224; 1983 a. 422; 1989 a. 56 s. 258; 1995 a. 27.

4

(END)

**SUBMITTAL
FORM**

**LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU
Legal Section Telephone: 266-3561
5th Floor, 100 N. Hamilton Street**

The attached draft is submitted for your inspection. Please check each part carefully, proofread each word, and sign on the appropriate line(s) below.

Date: 01/20/2000

To: Senator Cowles

Relating to LRB drafting number: LRB-4259

Topic

Cap on forest fire emergency appropriations

Subject(s)

Nat. Res. - forests and parks



1. **JACKET** the draft for introduction _____

in the Senate or the Assembly _____ (check only one). Only the requester under whose name the drafting request is entered in the LRB's drafting records may authorize the draft to be submitted. Please allow one day for the preparation of the required copies.

2. **REDRAFT**. See the changes indicated or attached _____.

A revised draft will be submitted for your approval with changes incorporated.

3. Obtain **FISCAL ESTIMATE NOW**, prior to introduction _____.

If the analysis indicates that a fiscal estimate is required because the proposal makes an appropriation or increases or decreases existing appropriations or state or general local government fiscal liability or revenues, you have the option to request the fiscal estimate prior to introduction. If you choose to introduce the proposal without the fiscal estimate, the fiscal estimate will be requested automatically upon introduction. It takes about 10 days to obtain a fiscal estimate. Requesting the fiscal estimate prior to introduction retains your flexibility for possible redrafting of the proposal.

If you have any questions regarding the above procedures, please call 266-3561. If you have any questions relating to the attached draft, please feel free to call me.

Robin N. Kite, Legislative Attorney
Telephone: (608) 266-7291