

### 2001 DRAFTING REQUEST

#### Bill

Received: 09/18/2000

Received By: gibsom

Wanted: Soon

Identical to LRB:

For: Administration-Budget

By/Representing: Grinde

This file may be shown to any legislator: NO

Drafter: gibsom

May Contact:

Alt. Drafters:

Subject: Nat. Res. - parks and forestry

Extra Copies:

#### Pre Topic:

DOA:.....Grinde -

#### Topic:

Forest fire emergency funding

#### 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	gibsom 09/29/2000	gilfokm 10/03/2000	rschluet 10/04/2000	_____	lrb_docadmin 10/04/2000		State

FE Sent For:

<END>

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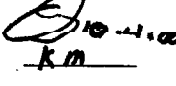
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2001-2003 Statutory Language Proposals

**Division:** Forestry

**Bureau:** Forestry

**Issue/Topic:** Forest Fire Emergency Fund (MB # 1219)

**Proposed Change:**

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).

**Explanatory Note:**

The costs involved in the suppression of major forest fires continue to increase. Recent fire outbreaks in the states of Florida and Texas have cost many millions to suppress. The expense to suppress the Tower Fire in the UP of Michigan in 1999 was well over the upper limit of the existing Wisconsin forest fire emergency fund.

This request is to revise the statute that currently provides for a fire emergency fund of up to \$500,000 so that the fund can increase to \$1,000,000. This change would substantially increase our ability to pay for a single large forest fire or a difficult fire season.

Presently, Statute 26.11 (7) (a) caps the size of the forest fire emergencies appropriations at \$500,000.

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. Annually, if the combined unencumbered balances in the two appropriations exceed \$500,000 at the close of a fiscal year, the excess amount lapses to the Conservation Fund.

These fire emergency appropriations are utilized during severe fire seasons when fire management expenditures exceed available spending authority.

Prior to the establishment of the emergency fund, any shortfall was covered through the use of existing spending authority within the Conservation Fund or by requesting additional funding authority from the Joint Finance Committee at a 13.10 hearing.

**Desired Effective Date:** Passage of the biennial budget

**Contact Person:** Eric Thompson, Management & Budget, 266-8251



State of Wisconsin  
2001 - 2002 LEGISLATURE

RMR  
LRB-0340/21  
MGG: Kim G

soon  
(9/29/00)

DOA:.....Grinde - Forest fire emergency funding

FOR 2001-03 BUDGET — NOT READY FOR INTRODUCTION

1 AN ACT <sup>DON'T GEN. CAT.</sup> relating to: the budget.

*Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau*

**NATURAL RESOURCES**

**OTHER NATURAL RESOURCES**

Under current law, two appropriation accounts exist into which the moneys received by DNR from the federal government and from other states for fighting forest fires will be credited. The moneys in these appropriation accounts must be used for forest-fire fighting activities. Current law provides that if the sum of the unencumbered balances in these accounts exceeds \$500,000 at the close of the fiscal year, the excess amount must lapse to the conservation fund. This bill increases the amount 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:*

2 SECTION 1. 26.11 (7) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

3 26.11 (7) (a) Notwithstanding s. 20.001 (3) (c), if the sum of the unencumbered

4 balances in the appropriation accounts under s. 20.370 (1) (cs) and (mz) exceeds

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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).

4 **History:** 1977 c. 224; 1983 a. 422; 1989 a. 56 s. 258; 1995 a. 21.

(END)



State of Wisconsin  
2001 - 2002 LEGISLATURE

LRB-0340/1

MGG:kmg:rs

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