



Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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Joint Committee on Finance

Paper #611

Emergency Response Equipment Funding (Military Affairs -- Emergency Management)

CURRENT LAW

An emergency response equipment appropriation under the Department of Military Affairs (DMA) funds reimbursement grants to counties for certain equipment used by Level B emergency teams that respond to less hazardous materials incidents. Base level funding for the emergency equipment appropriation is \$568,000 GPR annually.

GOVERNOR

Continue base level funding of \$568,000 GPR annually.

DISCUSSION POINTS

1. Local emergency response teams (Level B teams) respond to hazardous material emergencies where the highest level of respiratory protection is required but only moderate levels of skin protection are necessary. These response teams operate on a county level. The state also directly funds regional response teams (Level A teams) for hazardous materials incidents determined to be of a more serious nature.

2. Under s. 166.21(2)(br) of the statutes, counties may apply each year for reimbursement of 80% of the costs of team emergency response equipment and computers used by their Level B teams, up to \$10,000 per year. The county Level B teams may use in-kind contributions to meet their 20% cost-share requirement.

3. In recent years, this appropriation has consistently lapsed funds, as indicated in the following table.

**Emergency Response Equipment Appropriation Lapsing Balances
(1997-98 through 2000-01)**

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Expended</u>	<u>Lapsing Balance</u>
1997-98	\$568,000	\$411,888	\$156,112 *
1998-99	568,000	340,285	227,715
1999-00	568,000	404,724	163,278
2000-01	568,000	436,028	131,972 **

*The \$156,112 balance in the appropriation in 1997-98 was transferred to the Level A team appropriation in 1998-99 by the Joint Committee on Finance under s. 13.10 procedures.

**Through April 23, 2001, an unexpended balance of \$131,972 remained in the appropriation. On April 24, 2001, the Joint Committee on Finance transferred \$100,000 from the appropriation balance to DMA's fuel and utilities appropriation under s. 13.10 procedures.

4. Based on this review of lapsing balances from the emergency response equipment appropriation, it can be argued that the appropriation has been consistently over-funded by at least \$100,000 GPR annually. If the Committee concurs in this view, it could act to delete \$100,000 GPR annually of base level funding from the appropriation.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Delete \$100,000 GPR annually of base level funding from DMA's emergency response equipment appropriation.

<u>Alternative 1</u>	<u>GPR</u>
2001-03 FUNDING (Change to Bill)	- \$200,000

2. Maintain current law.

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