

**JBC STAFF FISCAL ANALYSIS  
HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**

CONCERNING THE CREATION OF THE URGENT INCIDENT RESPONSE FUND.

Prime Sponsors: Reps. Garcia and Lindsay

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**Appropriation Items of Note**

**Appropriation Required, Amendment in Packet**

**General Fund Impact**

**New Cash Fund (with Continuous Appropriation)**

**Fiscal Impact of Bill as Amended to Date**

The most recent Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note (attached) reflects the fiscal impact of the bill as of 04/05/23.

<b>XXX</b>	<b>No Change:</b> Attached LCS Fiscal Note accurately reflects the fiscal impact of the bill
	<b>Update:</b> Fiscal impact has changed due to <i>new information or technical issues</i>
	<b>Update:</b> Fiscal impact has changed due to <i>amendment adopted</i> after LCS Fiscal Note was prepared
	<b>Non-Concurrence:</b> JBC Staff and Legislative Council Staff disagree about the fiscal impact of the bill

**Amendments in This Packet for Consideration by Appropriations Committee**

<b>Amendment</b>	<b>Description</b>
J.001	Staff-prepared appropriation amendment

**Current Appropriations Clause in Bill**

The bill requires but does not contain an appropriations clause. The fiscal note assumes an appropriation of \$1.0 million General Fund is required; however, no provision in the bill requires an appropriation of a specific amount.

**Description of Amendments in This Packet**

**J.001** Staff has prepared amendment **J.001** (attached) to add a provision appropriating a total of \$1,000,000 General Fund to the Urgent Incident Response Fund. The fund is created in the bill and is continuously appropriated to the Department of Public Safety.

**Points to Consider**

*General Fund Impact*

The Joint Budget Committee has proposed a budget package for FY 2023-24 based on the March 2023 Office of State Planning and Budgeting (OSPB) revenue forecast. The budget package includes two set-asides for legislation outside of the package: (1) \$30.0 million General Fund for bills that create ongoing obligations; and (2) \$469.0 million for bills that create one-time obligations for FY 2023-24 (see table below).

General Fund Appropriation Placeholders for Other 2023 Legislation	
Description	FY 2023-24
Legislation with Ongoing Fiscal Impacts	\$30,000,000
Legislation with One-time Fiscal Impacts	
Workforce-related legislation, including free credentials, math scholarships, adult education, and concurrent enrollment	103,000,000
Housing-related legislation, including property tax relief, land use, and public-private partnerships	221,000,000
Legislation related to topics other than workforce and housing, including rural opportunity, line of duty loss, and Proposition 122 implementation	145,000,000
Subtotal	\$469,000,000
<b>TOTAL Placeholders for Other 2023 Legislation</b>	<b>\$499,000,000</b>

The budget package accounts for the 15.0 percent reserve associated with the above placeholders (a total of \$74.9 million).

This bill creates a one-time obligation and requires a General Fund appropriation of \$1.0 million for FY 2023-24, reducing the \$469.0 million set aside by that amount.

*Legislative Appropriation Authority*

Continuous spending authority, also known as **continuous appropriation**, allows state agencies to spend money for statutorily specified purposes up to the total amount available in a specified fund source without seeking further legislative approval through the budget process.

The term *appropriation* is broadly understood as expressing or conveying legal spending authority. However, the term *appropriation* also inherently expresses fundamental legislative fiscal authority by communicating a *limit* on or maximum amount of spending from a specified fund source for a defined period such as a fiscal year. While continuous spending authority also expresses or conveys legal spending authority it does so by eliminating legislative fiscal authority and oversight.

An annual appropriation provides a limit on spending authority, while a continuous appropriation

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## **JBC Staff Analysis**

provides unlimited spending authority. This method of funding moves these expenditures off-budget, and thus expenditures are not reported or accounted for through the budget process.

Is it necessary for the Department of Public Safety to **not** seek annual authority from the General Assembly to spend money from the Urgent Incident Response Fund?