

HB 2091 -- Emergency Management

Sponsor: Weter

This bill requires all individuals and business owners in Missouri who have insured real property to annually pay a disaster mitigation fee in the amount of \$1 per policy. The fee will be collected by the insurer and paid on a monthly basis to the Director of the Department of Revenue who will deposit the money in the newly created Emergency Management, Preparedness, and Assistance Trust Fund. The fund will consist of appropriations, federal funds, gifts, and donations. The elderly and people with disabilities who qualify or may qualify in the future for property tax exemptions and reductions as a result of the Homestead Preservation Act are exempt from this fee.

Moneys in the trust fund cannot be used to replace the State Emergency Management Agency's (SEMA) existing funding and, subject to appropriations, must be allocated as follows:

(1) 60% to implement and administer state and local emergency management programs, including training;

(2) 20% to provide state relief assistance for non-federally declared disasters to assist disaster victims; and

(3) 20% for grants to local governments and private organizations to implement projects that will further state and local emergency management objectives. These projects include community disaster education or disaster preparedness and recovery issues, enhancing coordination of relief efforts of statewide private sector organizations, and improving the training and operations capabilities of agencies assigned lead or support responsibilities in the state comprehensive emergency management plan. No more than 5% of any money awarded for these activities can be used for administrative costs.

The distribution ratio can be adjusted proportionally when necessary to meet any matching requirements imposed as a condition of receiving federal disaster relief assistance or planning funds.

The bill also specifies specific rules which must be adopted by SEMA in order to allocate money from the trust fund to local emergency management agencies. Some of these rules are:

(1) The local agency must have a program director who works a minimum of 40 hours per week in that capacity;

(2) The match requirements must be specified;

(3) There must be preferential funding for counties and municipalities that participate in mutual aid agreements; and

(4) There must be preferential funding to counties and municipalities that develop outcome-based outreach to special needs populations.

If adequate funds are available, every county will receive funding sufficient to pay for a dedicated, full-time emergency preparedness officer.