

JBC Staff Fiscal Analysis
Senate Appropriations Committee

Concerning the redistribution of the lottery fund, and, in connection therewith, modifying the distributions of lottery fund money for the public school capital construction assistance fund, the wildlife cash fund, and the parks and outdoor recreation cash fund; and making new distributions to the outdoor equity fund, the outdoor recreation industry office, and a new strategic outdoor recreation management and infrastructure cash fund.

Prime Sponsors:

Representatives Taggart; Joseph
Senators Bridges; Kirkmeyer

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Fiscal Impacts

Appropriation Not Required, No Amendment in Packet

New Cash Fund with Continuous Appropriation

Fiscal Note Status

The most recent Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note (attached) reflects the fiscal impact of the bill as of 04/08/25.

No Change: Attached LCS Fiscal Note accurately reflects the fiscal impact of the bill.

The reengrossed bill includes a committee amendment that was adopted on second reading in the House (04/21/25), however, Legislative Council Staff and JBC Staff agree that the amendment does not change the fiscal impact of the bill.

Amendments in This Packet

None.

Current Appropriations Clause in Bill

The bill neither requires nor contains an appropriation clause.

Points to Consider

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 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 Division of Parks and Wildlife to **not** seek annual authority from the General Assembly to spend money from Strategic Outdoor Recreation Management and Infrastructure Fund?