

ASSEMBLY THIRD READING
AB 4 X1 (Gabriel and Wiener)
As Introduced January 20, 2025

SUMMARY

This bill amends the 2024 Budget Act to authorize emergency expenditure authority related to the 2025 Los Angeles wildfires. Specifically, this bill:

Major Provisions

- 1) Appropriates up to \$1.5 billion in one-time General Fund, or other available funds, for augmentations to departments and agencies, subject to Department of Finance approval, for use in accordance with allowable uses of the Disaster Response-Emergency Operations Account in areas of the state affected by wildfire states of emergency that were declared by the Governor in January 2025. Funds shall be available for encumbrance until the state of emergency declaration is terminated, or on a date determined by the Department of Finance.
 - a. Allowable uses include, but are not limited to, emergency protective measures, evacuations, sheltering for survivors, household hazardous waste removal, assessment and remediation of post-fire hazards such as flash flooding and debris flows, traffic control, air quality and water and other environmental testing, and other actions to protect health, protect the safety of persons or property, and expedite recovery.
 - b. Augmentations for the first \$1 billion of this amount shall be made immediately with the remainder available no sooner than three days following the transmittal of the approval to the chairperson of the Joint Legislative Budget Committee or an earlier date as determined by the chairperson of the joint committee, or the chairperson's designee.

COMMENTS

The January 2025 wildfires in the Los Angeles area have destroyed over 12,000 structures and at the time of this analysis, are still not fully contained. A disaster has been declared in response, with the damage expected to be extensive. This bill, in concert with (ABX1 5/SBX1 3), amend the 2024 Budget plan to provide \$2.5 billion of authority for initial emergency response and recovery expenditures for this disaster. Historically, these expenditures have later been reimbursed by the federal government, private insurance, and other sources.

It is expected that the Legislature will have to revisit disaster funding again before the 2024-25 fiscal year concludes and also incorporate disaster funding as a major component of the 2025-26 budget plan. To facilitate this future discussion, both bills also includes expenditure reporting requirements to inform future actions needed to respond to the disaster and facilitate the recovery.

According to the Author

This bill provides essential funding to respond to the 2025 Los Angeles wildfires.

Arguments in Support

None on file.

Arguments in Opposition

None on file.

FISCAL COMMENTS

This bill amends the Budget Act of 2024, and results in increased expenditures of up to \$1.5 billion, which may be fully or partially reimbursed by the federal government.

VOTES

UPDATED

VERSION: January 20, 2025

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