

FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

BILL ANALYSIS

This bill analysis was prepared by nonpartisan committee staff and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.

BILL #: [HB 5503](#) **PCB TED 26-02**
TITLE: Trust Funds/Re-creation/Emergency Preparedness and Response Fund/EOG
SPONSOR(S): Transportation & Economic Development Budget Subcommittee, Griffitts

COMPANION BILL: None
LINKED BILLS: None
RELATED BILLS: None

Committee References

[Orig. Comm.: Transportation & Economic Development Budget](#)

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SUMMARY

Effect of the Bill:

The bill conforms law to the House of Representatives' proposed General Appropriations Act (GAA) for Fiscal Year 2026-27. Specifically, the bill re-creates the Emergency Preparedness and Response Fund within the Executive Office of the Governor. Currently, the fund is to be terminated on February 17, 2026, as provided in section 19(f), Article III of the State Constitution.

Fiscal or Economic Impact:

None. The bill does not directly impact state revenues or expenditures. The House of Representatives' proposed GAA for Fiscal Year 2026-27 provides for a transfer of \$100 million to the Emergency Preparedness and Response Fund contingent upon passage of the bill.

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ANALYSIS

EFFECT OF THE BILL:

The bill conforms law to the House of Representatives' proposed General Appropriations Act (GAA) for Fiscal Year 2026-27. Specifically, the bill re-creates the [Emergency Preparedness and Response Fund \(EPRF\)](#) within the Executive Office of the Governor. Currently, the fund is to be terminated on February 17, 2026, as provided in [section 19\(f\), Article III of the State Constitution](#). (Section 1)

The bill provides the following modifications to the fund: (Section 2)

- Limits the approved revenues in the fund to state moneys specifically appropriated by the Legislature.
- Limits the [use of the fund](#) to [natural emergencies](#) only and requires legislative consultation to appropriate funds for [states of emergency](#) that are renewed after the first 60 days.
- Prohibits the use of the fund to purchase aircraft, boats, or motor vehicles.
- Requires revenue to remain in the EPRF instead of being invested to ensure funds are readily available to respond to an emergency.
- Requires federal reimbursements to be deposited in the General Revenue Fund rather than the EPRF.
- Requires the Office of the Governor to submit a quarterly report to include a projected fund balance, a cash flow report, an asset inventory and an attestation that the information is true, accurate and complete.
- Terminates the fund on July 1, 2030, unless re-enacted by the Legislature.

Should the EPRF fail to be re-created, it appears the only funds available for emergency spending would be funds specifically appropriated for disaster relief or response.

STORAGE NAME: h5503.TED

DATE: 2/16/2026

The bill takes effect upon becoming a law, but operates retroactively to February 17, 2026. (Sections [3](#) and [4](#))

RELEVANT INFORMATION

SUBJECT OVERVIEW:

The Emergency Preparedness and Response Fund

In 2022, the Emergency Preparedness and Response Fund (EPRF) was created within the Executive Office of the Governor. The EPRF consists of any money specifically transferred or appropriated by the Legislature. These funds are the primary funding source for the Governor to use to prepare or respond to a disaster declared by the Governor as a state of emergency that exceeds regularly appropriated funding sources.¹ In accordance with [Art. III, s. 19\(f\)\(2\) of the Florida Constitution](#), the EPRF terminates four years after the bill becomes a law, unless terminated sooner. The EPRF will expire on February 17, 2026, if not saved from termination.

Emergency Funding

It is the policy of the state that funds to meet emergencies always be available.² Section [252.36\(1\)\(a\), F.S.](#), provides that the Governor is responsible for meeting the dangers presented to this state and its people by emergencies. The Governor is authorized to expend funds specifically appropriated to state and local agencies for disaster relief and response and to transfer and expend moneys from the EPRF.

Prior to the creation of the EPRF, the Governor was authorized to transfer moneys appropriated for other purposes, transfer and expend moneys out of any unappropriated surplus funds, or transfer and expend moneys from the Budget Stabilization Fund in the event a particular disaster would place unreasonably great demands on funds regularly appropriated to state and local agencies.³ When the Legislature created the EPRF in 2022, companion legislation was adopted that removed the authorization for the Governor to access these funds for emergencies.⁴ The legislation limited emergency spending to regularly appropriated funding sources or the EPRF, while also authorizing the Legislative Budget Commission to transfer or appropriate unappropriated surplus funds to the EPRF if requested by the Governor. The Governor is also authorized to apply for, administer, and expend any grants, gifts, or payments in aid of emergency prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, or recovery.⁵

EPRF Revenue and Expenditures

Since its creation, the EPRF has received \$6.8 billion in revenues. Of those revenues, \$4.8 billion (70 percent) was transferred from the General Revenue Fund and nearly \$2 billion was deposited from federal grants.⁶ The following table shows the transfers authorized from the General Revenue Fund.

¹ [S. 252.3711, F.S.](#)

² [S. 252.37\(1\), F.S.](#)

³ For example, during the COVID pandemic, the Governor authorized emergency spending of more than \$6.3 billion, including over \$3.0 billion from unallocated General Revenue.

⁴ Ch. 2022-1, L.O.F.

⁵ [S. 252.37\(3\), F.S.](#)

⁶ See Revenues by Month, Transparency Florida. <https://www.transparencyflorida.gov/> (last accessed Feb. 7, 2026).

Fiscal Year	Transfer Amount (\$ M)	Authority for Transfer
FY 2021-22	\$500	SB 96 (Section 3 , Ch. 2022- 1 , L.O.F.)
FY 2022-23	\$360	Budget Amendment #197; Approved by Legislative Budget Commission
FY 2022-23	\$650	SB 2-B (Section 4 , Ch. 2023- 1 , L.O.F.)
FY 2022-23	\$910	Budget Amendment #578; Approved in SB 2500 (Section 228, Ch. 2023-239, L.O.F.)
FY 2023-24	\$500	SB 2500 (Section 245, Ch. 2023-239, L.O.F.)
FY 2023-24	\$500	HB 5001 (Section 289, Ch. 2024-231, L.O.F.)
FY 2024-25	\$850	Budget Amendment #681; Approved by Legislative Budget Commission
FY 2025-26	\$500	SB 2500 (Section 273, Ch. 2025-198, L.O.F.)
Total	\$4,770	

Under current law, appropriations from the EPRF are approved by the Governor through emergency budget amendments and posted on the appropriations ledger. Unlike other adjustments to the budget, these amendments do not require legislative consultation or approval. Since its creation, the fund has disbursed over \$6.5 billion for emergency response. The expenditures by emergency event are shown in the following table:⁷

Event	Total Expenditures	Encumbrance Balance	Outstanding Invoices
Chipola Wildfires (2022)	454,625		
Hurricane Ian (2022)	2,517,470,318	25,792,563	486,887
Hurricane Nicole (2022)	30,353,799	960	
Broward Flooding (2023)	6,247,113		
Hurricane Idalia (2023)	385,878,863	12,901,401	3,433
Israel Evacuation (2023)	94,751,337	7,916,991	143,922
Haiti Aid (2024)	44,071,069	7,449	7,544,031
Hurricane Debby (2024)	195,244,435	2,930,320	287,868
Hurricane Helene (2024)	938,311,668	295,163,720	3,053,690
Hurricane Milton (2024)	1,531,132,777	484,822,439	23,288,733
Flooding (2024)	2,401,180	478	
North Florida Tornadoes (2024)	7,578,353		543,506

⁷ SB 180 Annual Report (2026), p. 7, Florida Division of Emergency Management; on file with the Transportation & Economic Development Budget Subcommittee.

Winter Storms (2024)	102,574		
Gulf Winter Weather (2025)	4,878,232		
Northwest Florida Storms (2025)	867,298		
ARPA Ian and Idalia	211,300,095		
Illegal Immigration (2023)	573,195,080	159,918,220	219,623,187
Severe Weather (2025)	1,255		
TOTAL	6,544,240,072	989,454,541	254,975,257

Executive Orders

In the event of an emergency or threat of one, the Governor may declare a state of emergency by executive order or proclamation. The state of emergency continues until the Governor finds that the threat or danger has been dealt with or to the extent that the emergency conditions no longer exist; however, no state of emergency may continue for longer than 60 days unless renewed by the Governor.⁸ The Legislature, at any time by concurrent resolution, may terminate a state of emergency.⁹

Recent Executive Orders		
Event	Executive Order	Origination Date
Illegal Immigration	2026-17	January 6, 2023
Impact of War in Israel	2025-183	October 12, 2023
May North Florida Tornados	2025-256	May 10, 2024
Hurricane Debby	2026-03	August 1, 2024
Hurricane Helene	2026-02	September 23, 2024
Hurricane Milton	2026-16	October 5, 2024
Northwest Florida May Tornados	2026-01	May 11, 2025
Lake County Flooding	2025-257	October 29, 2025

Natural Emergency

Current law provides definitions for different types of emergencies, including manmade emergency, natural emergency, public health emergency, and technological emergency. A “natural emergency” is defined to mean “an emergency caused by a natural event, including, but not limited to, a hurricane, a storm, a flood, severe wave action, a drought, or an earthquake.”¹⁰

⁸ S. 252.36(2), F.S.

⁹ S. 252.36(3), F.S.

¹⁰ S. 252.34, F.S.

BILL HISTORY

COMMITTEE REFERENCE	ACTION	DATE	STAFF DIRECTOR/ POLICY CHIEF	ANALYSIS PREPARED BY
<u>Orig. Comm.: Transportation & Economic Development Budget Subcommittee</u>	12 Y, 0 N	2/16/2026	Davis	McAuliffe