

FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FINAL BILL ANALYSIS

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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: [SB 7040](#)

LINKED BILLS: None

RELATED BILLS: None

FINAL HOUSE FLOOR ACTION: 80 Y's 20 N's **GOVERNOR'S ACTION:** Approved

SUMMARY

Effect of the Bill:

The bill re-creates the Emergency Preparedness and Response Fund within the Executive Office of the Governor which 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.

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ANALYSIS

EFFECT OF THE BILL:

HB 5503 passed as SB 7040.

The bill re-creates the [Emergency Preparedness and Response Fund \(EPRF\)](#) within the Executive Office of the Governor making the following modifications to the fund: (Section 2)

- Provides the EPRF as a depository for moneys specifically transferred or appropriated by the Legislature or the Legislative Budget Commission (LBC).
- Authorizes moneys in the EPRF to be used for natural emergencies and requires legislative consultation of budget amendments to appropriate funds for such [states of emergency](#) that are renewed after the first 60 days.
- Authorizes moneys in the EPRF to be used for manmade or technological emergencies and requires LBC approval of budget amendments to appropriate funds for such states of emergency that are renewed after the first 60 days. The Chair and the Vice Chair of the LBC may authorize approval of such amendments.
- Requires federal reimbursements of state emergency expenditures to be deposited in a separate account within the EPRF. Expenditures from this separate account may only be used for previously-incurred invoices and no other purpose until all outstanding prior invoices are paid.
- Prohibits the use of the EPRF to purchase aircraft, boats, or motor vehicles; but authorizes its use for short-term leases of aircraft, boats, or vehicles.
- Requires a quarterly report that includes the following information:
 - The projected year-end cash balance of the EPRF.
 - An updated cash flow statement for the year.
 - An update on all pending and received federal reimbursements.
 - An accounting of all inventory and assets purchased, by emergency event and agency, preparing for and responding to a state of emergency and the current status of such assets.
 - An accounting of all pending invoices, itemized by emergency event and agency, including the date the invoice was received.
- Terminates the fund on July 1, 2028, unless re-enacted by the Legislature.

STORAGE NAME: h5503z1

DATE: 6/30/2026

The bill was approved by the Governor on June 29, 2026, chapter 2026-180, Laws of Florida, and shall operate 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

[Article III, section 19\(f\) of the Florida Constitution](#) requires that all newly created trust funds terminate not more than four years after the initial creation, unless re-created by a three-fifths vote of the membership of each house of the Legislature in a separate bill for the sole purpose of creating or recreating a trust fund. The Emergency Preparedness and Response Fund was created within the Executive Office of the Governor, effective February 17, 2022, and terminated on February 17, 2026.

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.

Fiscal Year	Transfer Amount (\$ M)	Authority for Transfer
FY 2021-22	\$500	SB 96 (Section 3 , Ch. 2022- 1 , L.O.F.)

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 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
Winter Storms (2024)	102,574		

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

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 Tornadoes	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 Tornadoes	2026-01	May 11, 2025
Lake County Flooding	2025-257	October 29, 2025

Emergency Definitions

Current law provides definitions for different types of emergencies, including manmade emergency, natural emergency, public health emergency, and technological emergency. A “manmade emergency” is defined to mean “an emergency caused by an action against persons or society, including, but not limited to, enemy attack, sabotage, terrorism, civil unrest, or other action impairing the orderly administration of government. 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.” A “technological emergency” is defined to mean “an emergency caused by a technological failure or accident, including, but not limited to, an explosion, transportation accident, radiological accident, or chemical or other hazardous material incident.”¹⁰

⁸ [S. 252.36\(2\), F.S.](#)

⁹ [S. 252.36\(3\), F.S.](#)

¹⁰ [S. 252.34, F.S.](#)