
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anna Caballero, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 372 (Bennett) - Office of Emergency Services: state matching funds: water system infrastructure improvements

Version: April 21, 2025

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: August 29, 2025

Policy Vote: G.O. 15 - 0, N.R. & W. 7 - 0

Mandate: No

Consultant: Janelle Miyashiro

Bill Summary: AB 372 establishes, contingent upon funding appropriated pursuant to the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 (Proposition 4), a Rural Water Infrastructure for Wildfire Resilience Program in the Office of Emergency Services (OES). AB 372 specifies the purpose of the program is for the distribution of state matching funds to wildland-urban interface (WUI) communities in high or very high fire hazard severity zones (FHSZs) to improve water system infrastructure to aid in the protection of property from fire.

******* ANALYSIS ADDENDUM – SUSPENSE FILE *******

**The following information is revised to reflect amendments
adopted by the committee on August 29, 2025**

Fiscal Impact:

- OES reports annual ongoing costs of approximately \$703,000 for two additional staff to support the proposed program (General Fund or other funds). OES notes it would require at least 7 percent of funding to develop and implement the program, as well as provide technical assistance and monitor the grants awarded.
- Unknown likely significant General Fund cost pressures, ranging in the tens of millions of dollars, to fund the proposed Rural Water Infrastructure for Wildfire Resilience Program.

Committee Amendments: Delete the reference to Proposition 4 bond funds, instead making the program contingent upon an appropriation by the Legislature.

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