

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to funding match for Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program.

Section 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the General Fund appropriation made to the Water Resources Department by _____ (OWRD budget bill, 2025) for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, for technical services, is decreased by \$500,000.

Section 2. There is established in the State Treasury, separate and distinct from the General Fund, the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Match Fund. Interest earned by the fund shall be credited to the fund. All moneys in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Match Fund are continuously appropriated to the Water Resources Department to carry out the purposes described in section 3 of this 2025 Act. (2) The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Match Fund shall consist of all moneys credited to the fund, including moneys appropriated or transferred to the fund by the Legislative Assembly.

Section 3. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is continuously appropriated to the Water Resources Department, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$500,000, for deposit in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Match Fund to provide the state contribution for water users enrolled in the Federal Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (16 U.S.C. 3831).

Section 4. Notwithstanding any other law limiting expenditures, the limitation on expenditures established for Water Resources Department for the biennium starting July 1, 2025, as the maximum limit for payment of expenses from fees, moneys or other revenues, including Miscellaneous Receipts and including federal funds received under cooperative agreements with or contracts from the Bureau of Reclamation of the United States Department of the Interior, the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the United States Geological Survey, the Bonneville Power Administration and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, but excluding lottery funds and federal funds, collected or received by the Water Resources Department, for technical services, is increased by \$500,000, for authorized expenditures of moneys deposited in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Match Fund.

Commented [BH1]: The goal of this legislation is to allow an existing general fund appropriation within OWRD's base budget, to roll into "other funds" at the end of the biennium if some resources have not been spent

Commented [BH2]: Section 1 disappropriates current GF budget line item

Commented [BH3]: Section 2 establishes a new fund that accepts GF and then rolls into OF

Commented [BH4]: Section 3 re-appropriates the funding into the newly established account created in section 2.

Commented [BH5]: Funding is currently used to serve as state match dollars required for landowners to access federal dollars associated with the Conservation Resources Enhancement Program, with is administered by the US Farm Service Agency.

Commented [BH6]: Section 4 increases the expenditure limitation within OWRD's base budget