

Senate Bill No. 548

CHAPTER 127

An act to add and repeal Section 8690.6 of the Government Code, relating to emergency services, making an appropriation therefor, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

[Approved by Governor July 25, 2007. Filed with
Secretary of State July 25, 2007.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 548, Hollingsworth. California Emergency Services Act.

The California Emergency Services Act established the Disaster Response-Emergency Operations Account in the Special Fund for Economic Uncertainties, and continuously appropriated moneys in the account for allocation by the Director of Finance to state agencies for qualifying disaster response operation costs for specified activities. Those provisions were repealed as of July 1, 2007.

This bill would, until January 1, 2009, reenact the above repealed provisions. By creating a continuously appropriated fund, this bill would make an appropriation.

This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

Appropriation: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 8690.6 is added to the Government Code, to read:

8690.6. (a) The Disaster Response-Emergency Operations Account is hereby established in the Special Fund for Economic Uncertainties. Notwithstanding Section 13340, moneys in the account are continuously appropriated, subject to the limitations specified in subdivisions (c) and (d), without regard to fiscal years, for allocation by the Director of Finance to state agencies for disaster response operation costs incurred by state agencies as a result of a proclamation by the Governor of a state of emergency, as defined in subdivision (b) of Section 8558. These allocations may be for activities that occur within 120 days after a proclamation of emergency by the Governor.

(b) It is the intent of the Legislature that the Disaster Response-Emergency Operations Account have an unencumbered balance of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) at the beginning of each fiscal year. If this account requires additional moneys to meet claims against the account, the Director of Finance may transfer moneys from the Special Fund for

Economic Uncertainties to the account in an amount sufficient to pay the amount of the claims that exceed the unencumbered balance in the account.

(c) Funds shall be allocated from the account subject to the conditions of this section and upon notification by the Director of Finance to the Chairperson of the Joint Legislative Budget Committee and the chairpersons of the fiscal committees in each house.

(d) Notwithstanding any other law, authorizations for acquisitions, relocations, and environmental mitigations related to activities, as described in subdivision (a), shall be authorized pursuant to this section. However, these funds shall be authorized only for needs that are a direct consequence of the proclaimed emergency if failure to undertake the project may interrupt essential state services or jeopardize public health or safety. In addition, any acquisition accomplished under this subdivision shall comply with any otherwise applicable law, except as provided in the first sentence of this subdivision.

(e) No funds allocated under this section shall be used to supplant federal funds otherwise available in the absence of state financial relief.

(f) The amount of financial assistance provided to an individual, business, or governmental entity under this section, or pursuant to any other program of state-funded disaster assistance, shall be deducted from sums received in payment of damage claims asserted against the state, its agents, or employees, for causing or contributing to the effects of the proclaimed disaster.

(g) No public entity administering disaster assistance to individuals shall receive funds under this section unless it administers that assistance pursuant to the following criteria:

(1) All applications, forms, and other written materials presented to persons seeking assistance shall be available in English and in the same language as that used by the major non-English-speaking group within the disaster area.

(2) Bilingual staff who reflect the demographics of the disaster area shall be available to applicants.

(h) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2009, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that is enacted before January 1, 2009, deletes or extends that date.

SEC. 2. This act is an urgency statute necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety within the meaning of Article IV of the Constitution and shall go into immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are:

In order that the Disaster Response-Emergency Operations Account established pursuant to Section 8690.6 of the Government Code may continue in uninterrupted existence, it is necessary that this act take effect immediately.