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**SB-450 Fire protection: Special District Fire Response Fund: Office of Emergency Services.** (2021-2022)

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**Senate Bill No. 450**

**CHAPTER 466**

An act to add Section 8586.9 to the Government Code, relating to fire protection.

[ Approved by Governor September 22, 2022. Filed with Secretary of State September 22, 2022. ]

**LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

SB 450, Hertzberg. Fire protection: Special District Fire Response Fund: Office of Emergency Services.

Existing law creates within the office of the Governor, the Office of Emergency Services. Existing law tasks the Office of Emergency Services with, among other things, establishing and leading the Wildfire Forecast and Threat Intelligence Integration Center, jointly with the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, to collect, assess, and analyze fire weather data, atmospheric conditions, and other threat indicators of wildfire danger, and to develop and share intelligence products related to fire weather and fire threat conditions. Existing law also tasks the Office of Emergency Services with establishing and administering the FIREScope Program (Firefighting RESources of California Organized for Potential Emergencies), to maintain and enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of managing multiagency firefighting resources in responding to an incident. Existing law requires the Office of Emergency Services to carry out its responsibilities with respect to the FIREScope Program in cooperation with the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and the Office of the State Fire Marshal, and with the advice of the Fire and Rescue Service Advisory Committee/FIREScope Board of Directors.

Section 2.2 of Article XIII A of the California Constitution establishes the Special District Fire Response Fund as a subaccount within the California Fire Response Fund within the State Treasury. Existing law requires moneys in the Special District Fire Response Fund to be appropriated by the Legislature for the purpose of funding fire suppression staffing in underfunded special districts that provide fire protection services, as provided.

This bill would require the Office of Emergency Services to administer the Special District Fire Response Fund and, in cooperation with the board of directors of the FIREScope Program, to develop a standard grant application form, establish an annual timeline to apply for grants, employ strategies to ensure that underfunded special district that provide fire protection services are aware of the availability of the Special District Fire Response Fund, establish reporting requirements for grant recipients, and develop metrics for consideration of grant applications, as specified.

Vote: majority Appropriation: no Fiscal Committee: yes Local Program: no

**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION 1.** It is the intent of the Legislature in enacting this measure to give direction to underfunded special districts that provide fire protection services in meeting the requirements of subdivision (f) of Section 2.2 of Article XIII A of the California Constitution and to provide funding to those districts to increase fire response capacity, improve community resilience to fire

threats, prevent civilian injury or death, protect against firefighter injury or death, and reduce property loss, thereby resulting in better community outcomes.

**SEC. 2.** Section 8586.9 is added to the Government Code, to read:

**8586.9.** (a) The Office of Emergency Services shall administer the Special District Fire Response Fund established pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (f) of Section 2.2 of Article XIII A of the California Constitution.

(b) The office shall, in coordination with the board of directors of the FIREScope Program, established pursuant to Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 13070) of Part 1 of Division 12 of the Health and Safety Code, do all of the following:

(1) Develop a standard application form to be used by special districts that provide fire protection services to apply for grants from the Special District Fire Response Fund that includes, but is not limited to, all of the following:

(A) Description of a special district's eligibility to receive a grant pursuant to the criteria contained in paragraph (2) of subdivision (f) of Section 2.2 of Article XIII A of the California Constitution.

(B) Specification of the number of additional fire suppression staff that would be supported by the grant.

(C) Identification of the benefits to firefighter health and safety and community response in the special district, if the grant is funded.

(D) Identification of opportunities to leverage other funding sources, if the grant is funded.

(2) Establish an annual timeline for special districts that provide fire protection services to apply for grants from the Special District Fire Response Fund.

(3) Employ strategies to ensure that underfunded special districts that provide fire protection services are aware of the availability of the Special District Fire Response Fund to expand and increase fire suppression staffing in qualified districts.

(4) Establish reporting requirements for special districts that are awarded grants from the Special District Fire Response Fund.

(5) Develop metrics for consideration of grant applications consistent with paragraphs (3) and (4) of Subdivision (f) of Section 2.2 of Article XIII A of the California Constitution.