Multiple Agency Fiscal Note Summary

Bill Number: 1625 HB	**Title:** Back country search & rescue

Estimated Cash Receipts

NONE

Agency Name	2025-27		2027-29		2029-31	
	GF- State	Total	GF- State	Total	GF- State	Total
Local Gov. Courts						
Loc School dist-SPI						
Local Gov. Other	Non-zero but indeterminate cost and/or savings. Please see discussion.					
Local Gov. Total						

Estimated Operating Expenditures

Agency Name	2025-27				2027-29				2029-31			
	FTEs	GF-State	NGF-Outlook	Total	FTEs	GF-State	NGF-Outlook	Total	FTEs	GF-State	NGF-Outlook	Total
Office of the Secretary of State	Fiscal note not available											
Military Department	1.0	269,646	269,646	269,646	1.0	263,966	263,966	263,966	1.0	263,966	263,966	263,966
Total $	**1.0**	**269,646**	**269,646**	**269,646**	**1.0**	**263,966**	**263,966**	**263,966**	**1.0**	**263,966**	**263,966**	**263,966**

Agency Name	2025-27			2027-29			2029-31		
	FTEs	GF-State	Total	FTEs	GF-State	Total	FTEs	GF-State	Total
Local Gov. Courts									
Loc School dist-SPI									
Local Gov. Other	Non-zero but indeterminate cost and/or savings. Please see discussion.								
Local Gov. Total									

Estimated Capital Budget Expenditures

Agency Name	2025-27			2027-29			2029-31		
	FTEs	Bonds	Total	FTEs	Bonds	Total	FTEs	Bonds	Total
Office of the Secretary of State	Fiscal note not available								
Military Department	.0	0	0	.0	0	0	.0	0	0
Total $	**0.0**	**0**	**0**	**0.0**	**0**	**0**	**0.0**	**0**	**0**

Agency Name	2025-27			2027-29			2029-31		
	FTEs	GF-State	Total	FTEs	GF-State	Total	FTEs	GF-State	Total
Local Gov. Courts									
Loc School dist-SPI									
Local Gov. Other	Non-zero but indeterminate cost and/or savings. Please see discussion.								
Local Gov. Total									

Estimated Capital Budget Breakout

NONE

Prepared by: Gwen Stamey, OFM	**Phone:** (360) 790-1166	**Date Published:** Preliminary 1/31/2025

Individual State Agency Fiscal Note

Bill Number: 1625 HB	Title: Back country search & rescue	Agency: 245-Military Department

Part I: Estimates

☐ **No Fiscal Impact**

Estimated Cash Receipts to:

NONE

Estimated Operating Expenditures from:

	FY 2026	FY 2027	2025-27	2027-29	2029-31
FTE Staff Years	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Account					
General Fund-State 001-1	137,663	131,983	269,646	263,966	263,966
Total $	137,663	131,983	269,646	263,966	263,966

Estimated Capital Budget Impact:

NONE

The cash receipts and expenditure estimates on this page represent the most likely fiscal impact. Factors impacting the precision of these estimates, and alternate ranges (if appropriate), are explained in Part II.

Check applicable boxes and follow corresponding instructions:

☒ If fiscal impact is greater than $50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete entire fiscal note form Parts I-V.

☐ If fiscal impact is less than $50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete this page only (Part I).

☐ Capital budget impact, complete Part IV.

☒ Requires new rule making, complete Part V.

Legislative Contact:	Martha Wehling	Phone: 360-786-7067	Date: 01/27/2025
Agency Preparation:	Serina Roberts	Phone: 2535127388	Date: 01/31/2025
Agency Approval:	Regan Hesse	Phone: 253-512-7498	Date: 01/31/2025
OFM Review:	Gwen Stamey	Phone: (360) 790-1166	Date: 01/31/2025

Part II: Narrative Explanation

II. A - Brief Description Of What The Measure Does That Has Fiscal Impact

Significant provisions of the bill and any related workload or policy assumptions that have revenue or expenditure impact on the responding agency by section number.

The New Section (Sec. 3) this bill proposes to add to 38.52 establishes a new back country search and rescue grant program, and directs the department to administer it. A new Back Country Search and Rescue Account is created in the treasury, subject to appropriation, which can receive donations. Search and rescue organizations engaged in back country search and rescue and political subdivisions which budget for or incur costs related to back country search and rescue not reimbursable through other mechanisms may receive funds from this grant program, subject to availability of funds appropriated for this purpose.

The department currently does not have a search and rescue grant program nor does it have the personnel to perform the workload anticipated to establish, implement, and manage the grant program. The work needed to implement the grant program as directed includes developing grant requirements and prioritization scheme, developing forms for requests/proposals for funding, coordinating with partners in the search and rescue community to develop and scope the program, training and outreach to eligible recipients regarding grant eligibility and processes, contracting with awardees, tracking deliverables, managing billing and reimbursements, and providing technical assistance to awardees.

II. B - Cash receipts Impact

Cash receipts impact of the legislation on the responding agency with the cash receipts provisions identified by section number and when appropriate, the detail of the revenue sources. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the cash receipts impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.

II. C - Expenditures

Agency expenditures necessary to implement this legislation (or savings resulting from this legislation), with the provisions of the legislation that result in the expenditures (or savings) identified by section number. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the expenditure impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into cost estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.

The military department expenditures necessary to implement this legislation are primarily comprised of staff salary and benefits for a Search and Rescue Grant Coordinator (EMPS-2). This would be a total of 1 FTE of staff beginning in SFY 26. Other included costs are agency indirect costs (at 15%), Goods and services for employee workstation equipment and standard employee costs (estimated at $5,000 per FTE), and travel (estimated at 4x trips in-state per SFY, 3 days and 2 nights at highest in-state per diem rates) to support delivery of related outreach, training, and meetings as needed. A detailed description of estimated costs is provided in section III. A summary of estimated costs and assumptions is provided below.

Part III: Expenditure Detail

III. A - Operating Budget Expenditures

Account	Account Title	Type	FY 2026	FY 2027	2025-27	2027-29	2029-31
001-1	General Fund	State	137,663	131,983	269,646	263,966	263,966
		Total $	137,663	131,983	269,646	263,966	263,966

III. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

	FY 2026	FY 2027	2025-27	2027-29	2029-31
FTE Staff Years	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
A-Salaries and Wages	72,924	72,924	145,848	145,848	145,848
B-Employee Benefits	35,004	35,004	70,008	70,008	70,008
C-Professional Service Contracts					
E-Goods and Other Services	5,000	5,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
G-Travel	3,254	3,254	6,508	6,508	6,508
J-Capital Outlays	5,000		5,000		
M-Inter Agency/Fund Transfers					
N-Grants, Benefits & Client Services					
P-Debt Service					
S-Interagency Reimbursements					
T-Intra-Agency Reimbursements	16,481	15,801	32,282	31,602	31,602
9-					
Total $	137,663	131,983	269,646	263,966	263,966

III. C - Operating FTE Detail: *List FTEs by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals need to agree with total FTEs in Part I and Part IIIA*

Job Classification	Salary	FY 2026	FY 2027	2025-27	2027-29	2029-31
Emergency Management Program Specialist 2	72,924	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Total FTEs		1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0

III. D - Expenditures By Program (optional)

NONE

Part IV: Capital Budget Impact

IV. A - Capital Budget Expenditures

NONE

IV. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

NONE

IV. C - Capital Budget Breakout

Acquisition and construction costs not reflected elsewhere on the fiscal note and description of potential financing methods.

NONE

IV. D - Capital FTE Detail: *FTEs listed by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals agree with total FTEs in Part IVB.*

NONE

Part V: New Rule Making Required

Provisions of the bill that require the agency to adopt new administrative rules or repeal/revise existing rules.

The bill provides that the department may adopt rules but does not require it.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FISCAL NOTE

Department of Commerce

Bill Number: 1625 HB	**Title:** Back country search & rescue

Part I: Jurisdiction-Location, type or status of political subdivision defines range of fiscal impacts.

Legislation Impacts:

[X] Cities: Indeterminate revenue from potential back country search and rescue grants; costs associated with grant application.

[X] Counties: Same as above.

[ ] Special Districts:

[ ] Specific jurisdictions only:

[ ] Variance occurs due to:

Part II: Estimates

[ ] No fiscal impacts.

[ ] Expenditures represent one-time costs:

[X] Legislation provides local option: Local governments may choose to apply for back coutry search and rescue grants.

[X] Key variables cannot be estimated with certainty at this time: Grant funds available; number of applications from local governments

Estimated revenue impacts to:

Non-zero but indeterminate cost and/or savings. Please see discussion.

Estimated expenditure impacts to:

Non-zero but indeterminate cost and/or savings. Please see discussion.

Part III: Preparation and Approval

Fiscal Note Analyst: Alice Zillah	Phone: 360-725-5035	Date: 01/27/2025
Leg. Committee Contact: Martha Wehling	Phone: 360-786-7067	Date: 01/27/2025
Agency Approval: Allan Johnson	Phone: 360-725-5033	Date: 01/27/2025
OFM Review: Gwen Stamey	Phone: (360) 790-1166	Date: 01/27/2025

Part IV: Analysis

A. SUMMARY OF BILL

Description of the bill with an emphasis on how it impacts local government.

Sec. 1 amends RCW 38.52.010. "Back country search and rescue" is a subset of search and rescue and includes locating lost, injured, or deceased persons in remote areas. "Search and rescue organization" means a Washington domestic nonprofit corporation or a group of emergency workers recognized by and working with the local director, whose primary purpose is search and rescue, has its principal place of business established in a political subdivision of the state of Washington, and is formally recognized by the local emergency management organization of that political subdivision as being available for participation in search and rescue activities consistent with RCW 38.52.400.

Sec. 3 adds a new section to RCW 38.52. Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the back country search and rescue grant program is established. The back country search and rescue account is created in the state treasury. Expenditures from the account may only be used by the State Military Department to provide grants to: (a) Search and rescue organizations for anticipated and incurred back country search and rescue costs by search and rescue volunteers, including planning, equipment, training, exercise, and operations; and (b) Political subdivisions which incur or budget for costs related to back country search and rescue operations that are not available for reimbursement through another mechanism.

B. SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURE IMPACTS

Expenditure impacts of the legislation on local governments with the expenditure provisions identified by section number and when appropriate, the detail of expenditures. Delineated between city, county and special district impacts.

The legislation would have indeterminate expenditure impacts for local governments. Local governments which apply for back country search and rescue grants would incur costs associated with the application process, including staff time, legal consultation, and city council or county commissioners' approval. These costs cannot be estimated at this time.

C. SUMMARY OF REVENUE IMPACTS

Revenue impacts of the legislation on local governments, with the revenue provisions identified by section number, and when appropriate, the detail of revenue sources. Delineated between city, county and special district impacts.

The legislation would result in indeterminate revenue for local governments.

Cities and counties would be eligible to receive grants for costs related to back country search and rescue efforts that are not available for reimbursement through another mechanism. There is no information about the amount of grant funds available, or how often local governments would seek to apply for funding.

SOURCES:
Local Government fiscal note for HB 2257, 2024