

2022 OST REQUEST LEGISLATION

CIVIL ASSET FORFEITURE FUNDS TRANSFER



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Civil Asset Forfeiture Funds Transfer SB 5728

What does this bill do?

This bill dedicates all civil asset forfeiture dollars collected by the state, approximately one million dollars annually, to the Behavioral Health Loan Repayment Program Account, which improves behavioral health access in rural areas.

What is the Behavioral Health Loan Repayment Program Account?

This account is the state contribution to the Washington State Health Professional Loan Repayment Program, which offers loan repayment assistance to primary care health professionals who agree to practice in areas of our state where shortages impact reliable access to health care.

Why is it important?

Adding the modest dollars collected by the state from civil asset forfeiture into a single account will maximize the impact of these funds. This will support an effective tool to get the needed behavioral health care resources into our rural Washington communities.

What are civil asset forfeitures?

When the owner of a property, such as aircraft, vehicles, or vessels, has been arrested by local law enforcement they may have certain property seized as it relates to their case. Upon the sale of forfeited properties, local governments are required to remit ten percent to the state. Remaining proceeds are retained by the seizing law enforcement agency exclusively for the expansion and improvement of controlled substances related law enforcement activity.