

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Item 48: Department of Revenue County Wildfire Distribution

To: Ways and Means Full Committee
From: General Government Subcommittee
Carrier: Representative Gomberg

The General Government Subcommittee recommends that the Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means recommend including a change in the methodology used by the Department of Revenue to distribute grant funds to counties associated with lost tax revenue related to the 2020 wildfires in a budget reconciliation bill budget report during the 2022 legislative session.

HB 5006 (2021) provided a one-time General Fund appropriation of \$23.2 million for DOR to make grants to counties for the reimbursement of lost tax revenue related to the 2020 wildfires. As directed in the budget report, DOR made the first distribution of \$4.8 million to counties in December 2021.

Rather than having counties come back annually and attest to their loss as directed in the budget report, DOR proposes making a one-time disbursement of the remaining \$18.4 million to counties in the same proportion counties received in the first distribution. DOR proposes this approach to maximize use of the funds by providing resources as soon as possible to the impacted counties.

The Subcommittee recommends approval.