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EPCRKA cash fund for this purpose. Following the enactment of LB 374, the SERC was reorganized and expanded. It has promulgated rules and regulations regarding the acceptance of donations and other gifts, has published a brochure and information for business which must file reports under NEPCRKA and has established a public outreach and education subcommittee to name just a few of their activities, and I would, at this time, thank the SERC, their reorganizing, the direction that they have provided. The assistance that they have provided to the LEPCs has certainly been something that has met my expectations and has been very useful to each of the counties as they began this process or continued it. Activities in 1999 were continued, and in order to fund the statutorily-created duties of the SERC, the Appropriations Committee included a \$50,000-a-year appropriation in the biennium budget last year. This money will help fund the SERC's activities including public outreach, the review and approval of the plans submitted by the LEPCs, the establishment of new LEPCs and funding for SERC members to attend training conferences and workshops. During the interim, my office mailed out over 800 surveys to businesses, fire departments, emergency responders, LEPCs, and state agencies. The surveys have sought information regarding funding, expenditures of the SERC and LEPCs, funding needs of these entities, which funding mechanisms would be supported by members of the business community. Several subcommittees were established, including one to identify specific funding needs, and another to identify funding mechanisms. Though we were able to identify funding needs, we were unable to identify a funding mechanism that was supported by the members of the business community. It is my belief that it is imperative that we get some minimal seed money to the LEPCs so they can fulfill the planning and education requirements under federal and state law. I bring this legislation and the committee amendment to you today with that funding goal in mind. The committee amendment seeks \$150,000 annually for the next three years from the General Fund. This provision would sunset on July 1st of 2003. The money would be allocated by the SERC to LEPCs which are actively working to carry out their responsibilities under NEPCRKA. Twenty-five percent would be evenly divided among all active LEPCs and the remaining 75 percent would be distributed to LEPCs based on the number of facilities, highways, roadways, pipelines and other structures reported in their local plan.