IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 712

BY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO THE APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018; APPROPRIATING AND TRANSFERRING ADDITIONAL MONEYS FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE WATER MANAGEMENT FUND FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018; PROVIDING LEGISLATIVE INTENT REGARDING GRANT APPLICATIONS FROM THE WATER MANAGEMENT FUND; PROVIDING LEGISLATIVE INTENT REGARDING PROJECT PRIORITIZATION; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

SECTION 1. CASH TRANSFER FOR FLOOD MANAGEMENT PROGRAM. There is hereby appropriated and the State Controller shall transfer $1,000,000 from the General Fund to the Water Management Fund created pursuant to Section 42-1760, Idaho Code, as soon as practicable to be used for flood-damaged stream channel repair, stream channel improvement, flood risk reduction, or flood prevention projects.

SECTION 2. USES OF THE WATER MANAGEMENT FUND. The moneys appropriated and transferred in Section 1 of this act are to be administered by the Idaho Water Resource Board through a competitive, matching grant process. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 42-1760(2)(b), Idaho Code, grants may be larger than $50,000 at the discretion of the board.

SECTION 3. PROJECT PRIORITIZATION. It is the intent of the Legislature that the selection process for the grants authorized in Section 2 of this bill shall require the availability of fifty percent (50%) matching funds and that projects shall be given priority on a competitive statewide basis throughout Idaho. The Department of Water Resources staff shall support this competitive grant process using existing personnel and resources.

SECTION 4. An emergency existing therefor, which emergency is hereby declared to exist, this act shall be in full force and effect on and after its passage and approval.