Legal Title
Public Rights Law Enforcement Special Fund

Legal Citation/Authority
Chapter 159, Statutes of 2003
Government Code section 12530

Legal Basis
Governmental/Special Revenue Funds

GAAP Basis
Governmental/Other Governmental Cost Fund

Purpose
Whenever the Attorney General prevails in a civil action to enforce specified public rights, the court will award to the Attorney General all costs of investigating and prosecuting the action, including expert fees, reasonable attorney’s fees and costs. The Public Rights Law Enforcement Special Fund was created as a depository for all costs awarded to the Attorney General, as specified.

Upon appropriation by the Legislature, money in the fund would be used by the Attorney General to support the investigation and prosecution of any matter within the authority of the Department of Justice’s Public Rights Division.

Administering Agency/Organization Code
Department of Justice/ Org 0820

Major Revenue Source
All costs of investigating and prosecuting the action, including expert fees, attorney’s fees, settlements, judgments.

Disposition of Fund (upon abolishment)
Pursuant to Government Code section 16346, in the absence of language that identifies a successor fund, any balance remaining in this fund upon abolishment shall be transferred to the General Fund.

Appropriation Authority
Upon appropriation by the Legislature.

State Appropriations Limit
Always Excluded – Revenues in this fund are not proceeds of taxes and even after transfer, will never become proceeds of taxes because the major revenue source is derived from reimbursements.

Comments/Historical Information
Chapter 159, Statutes of 2003 (AB 1759) added the Public Rights Law Enforcement Special Fund to Section 12530 of the Government Code.

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