

HB 4111 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**Carrier:** Sen. Boles**Senate Committee On Rules**

Action Date: 02/24/20
Action: Do pass the A-Eng bill.
Vote: 3-0-1-1
Yeas: 3 - Burdick, Dembrow, Roblan
Exc: 1 - Boquist
Abs: 1 - Baertschiger Jr
Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact
Revenue: No revenue impact
Prepared By: Tyler Larson, LPRO Analyst
Meeting Dates: 2/24

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Authorizes the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) to enter into agreement with a nonprofit organization representing sheriffs in the state under which the organization is authorized to administer a program to produce and sell outdoor recreation search and rescue cards to be sold to the public to fund county sheriff search and rescue activities. Requires OEM to report annually on administration and effectiveness of card program. Requires the organization to maintain funds from card sales in separate account and expend funds only to reimburse county sheriffs' offices for search and rescue expenses, issue grants to county sheriffs' offices for search and rescue purposes, and to reimburse the organization for administration of the card program. Establishes requirements for reimbursements and grants. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Increased outdoor recreation activity throughout Oregon
- Need for additional search and rescue funding
- Coalition's development of voluntary funding program through authorized retailers

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Office of Emergency Management (OEM), housed within the Oregon Military Department, is required to coordinate and facilitate public and private efforts to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies. OEM is required to maintain a liaison with the Oregon State Sheriffs' Association (OSSA) and other public agencies involved in search and rescue activities, and to annually publish an inventory of search and rescue resources in the state. The sheriff of each county is responsible for search and rescue activities in that county and must adopt a search and rescue plan that meets federal standards. The state does not provide dedicated funding for search and rescue activities, but a public body that provides search and rescue services may seek reimbursement up to \$500 from each person helped by search and rescue efforts, if that person did not exercise reasonable care or violated applicable laws.

Since 1987, the State of Colorado has maintained a Search and Rescue (SAR) Fund to reimburse agencies for costs incurred in search and rescue activities. The SAR Fund is supported by a surcharge on certain outdoor recreation permits and by voluntary donation through the purchase of a Colorado Outdoor Search and Rescue (CORSAR) card or sticker, which can be purchased from participating retailers. In fiscal year 2019, the SAR Fund received over \$564,000, roughly 15 percent of which was from the sale of CORSAR cards and stickers. The fund reimbursed over \$38,000 for 23 search and rescue missions and granted \$340,000 to participating agencies.

HB 4111 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Bill 4111-A seeks to provide additional funding for county search and rescue services by allowing the OSSA, under an agreement with the OEM, to sell search and rescue cards through authorized sellers. The cards would allow purchasers to make voluntary donations to a dedicated fund which would be used to finance sheriff search and rescue efforts. The cards are a mechanism to raise funds, and do not entitle the holder to any service or insulate the holder from search and rescue liability.