

HB 2426 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Management

Prepared By: Cassie Passon, Counsel

Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/4, 2/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Oregon Homeland Security Council (Council) to update list of equipment for State Preparedness and Incident Response Grant Program (SPIRE) before January 1, 2022. Requires Council to prioritize urban search and rescue equipment. Prioritizes grant applications from certain search and rescue teams. Authorizes issuance of Article XI-Q bonds sufficient to cover costs and produce \$5,000,000 net proceeds for grant program. Takes effect the 91st day after *sine die*.

Subsequent referral to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Reinvesting in Urban Search and Rescue (USAR)
- USAR versus Wilderness Search and Rescue and the technical equipment needed for USAR
- Lack of state and federal support and funding for USAR programs
- Aging equipment and retiring of USAR trained personnel
- SPIRE Program's past success and popularity
- Need for new USAR equipment

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The State Preparedness and Incident Response Equipment Grant Program (SPIRE) funds the purchase and distribution of equipment to local jurisdictions, including vehicles and other property, to be used during an emergency. The SPIRE equipment list was last updated in 2019.

House Bill 2426 directs the Oregon Homeland Security Council to update the list of equipment for the SPIRE grant program before January 1, 2022, prioritizing urban search and rescue equipment and grant requests from certain search and rescue teams. The measure also authorizes Article XI-Q bonds in an amount that produces \$5,000,000 in net proceeds for the program, as well as, covering any bond related costs.