

HB 2425 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: 2/25

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Office of Emergency Management to develop and administer grant program in support of projects to consolidate and modernize or upgrade public safety answering points. Requires grant applications to include plan for consolidating two or more public safety answering points into single public safety answering point and plan for modernizing or upgrading software or hardware. Allows office to approve up to two projects per biennium. Allows office to provide matching grants up to certain limit for modernizing or upgrading software or hardware. Established Public Safety Answer Point Consolidation Fund. Sunsets January 2, 2041.

Subsequent referral to Joint Committee on Ways and Means

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Public safety answering points (PSAP) are the call centers where emergency calls for police, fire, and emergency medical services (EMS), are routed to when 911 is dialed. PSAPs are operated by local governments with revenues received from a telephone excise tax paid by telecommunication service providers for each device with access to 9-1-1, each month, that is presumably passed-along to and recaptured from consumers. The Office of Emergency Management (OEM) receives and distributes these funds. Since 1995 there have attempts to "right-size" the 9-1-1 system in Oregon. Thirty years ago there were almost 300 PSAPs in Oregon; currently there are roughly 50 operating in the state.

House Bill 2425 directs the Office of Emergency Management to develop and administer a grant program in support of projects to consolidate and modernize or upgrade public safety answering points. The bill also allows for the approval of up to two projects a year and creates the Public Safety Answer Point Consolidation Fund.