

HB 2852 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Management

Prepared By: Cassie Passon, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 4/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Office of Emergency Management to study and make recommendations regarding improvements to operations of office and submit report on its findings to Legislative Assembly by January 1, 2023.

REVENUE: *No revenue impact*

FISCAL: *May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued*

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Requires courts, when determining aggravation, to consider whether crime was committed during an emergency that involved loss or damage to private or publicly owned property or mandatory evacuation, and that defendant took advantage of circumstances related to the emergency. Requires courts, when determining aggravation, to consider if crime was committed within one year after an emergency ceased to be in effect, and that defendant took advantage of circumstances related to recovery from the emergency.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon's 2020 fire season saw over 2,000 fires, with 1,221,324 acres burned which is close to double the 10-year average for acres burned. The fires destroyed 4,021 homes and damaged 14 more in Labor Day fires alone. The Labor Day fires caused half a million Oregonians to be under one of three evacuation levels, with 40,000 having to evacuate from their homes. During the 2020 Labor Day wildfires, affected areas in Oregon saw steep increases in calls to 9-1-1 dispatchers regarding suspicious people within the area. Citing concerns of looting in areas under mandatory evacuations, local civilians put armed checkpoints in place in many areas.