

HB 3127 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Special Committee On Wildfire Recovery

Action Date: 05/28/21

Action: Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 9-0-1-0

Yeas: 9 - Cate, Clem, Gomberg, Grayber, Lewis, Marsh, Meek, Morgan, Post

Exc: 1 - Evans

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Laura Kentnesse, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 5/7, 5/14, 5/28

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Appropriates moneys from the General Fund and authorizes payments from lottery bonds and the State Highway Fund to state agencies for distribution to cities, counties, fire districts, school districts, nonprofit organizations, private companies, and agencies for water infrastructure, telecommunications and utility infrastructure, fire and public safety infrastructure, transportation infrastructure, revenue replacement, education, cost sharing, business and commercial districts, staffing capacity, housing, and natural resources needs related to the 2020 wildfires. Declares emergency, takes effect July 1, 2021.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The meaning and impact of funding items for individuals and communities
- Intentionally comprehensive list of items that relate directly to damage from the 2020 wildfires
- Timing and availability of federal and state funding sources
- Intended distributions described in detail on a spreadsheet located on the Oregon Legislative Information System website
- Documented additional funding requests to increase preparation and resilience for future wildfires and other emergencies

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND:

The "Labor Day" wildfires of 2020 were the most destructive recorded in state history. They burned over one million acres, cost over \$350 million to fight and extinguish, and destroyed more than 4,000 homes in the Cascades, coast, and southern regions of the state.

In February 2021, the House Special Committee on Wildfire Recovery and Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery held several joint meetings to hear directly from wildfire survivors and from fire-affected cities, counties, fire districts, school districts, and community partners. The primary purpose of the meetings was to solicit input on individual and community needs to fully recover from the 2020 wildfires. The needs articulated at those meetings formed the basis of House Bill 3127 A - the wildfire recovery funding package - that was further added to and refined over the next several months of the 2021 Legislative Session.

House Bill 3127 A would appropriate moneys from the General Fund and authorize payments from lottery bonds and the State Highway Fund to state agencies for distribution to cities, counties, fire districts, school districts, nonprofit organizations, private companies, and agencies for water infrastructure, telecommunications and utility infrastructure, fire and public safety infrastructure, transportation infrastructure, revenue replacement,

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