

HB 3485 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans

Prepared By: Beverly Schoonover, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/21, 3/23

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Adds additional discretionary powers to the Department of the State Fire Marshal. Allows for standardized Department uniforms and equipment. Updates criminal code violations for unauthorized use or replication of uniforms. Excludes limitations on hours worked by retired members for those employed by the Department for fire prevention, fire preparedness, fire risk mitigation, emergency response or other response supporting functions. Repeals provisions for State Fire Marshal regulation of explosives.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

House Bill 2927 (2021) elevated and reorganized the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) to the Department of the State Fire Marshal, effective July 1, 2023. Agency alignment, resource competition, historic wildfires and catastrophic events were cited for the need for elevating the office to an independent state agency.

House Bill 3485 adds additional discretionary powers to the Department of the State Fire Marshal including the authority to establish headquarters and regional offices of the Department and to own and operate emergency response vehicles. It provides for standardized uniforms, response apparatus, vehicles, and equipment to carry out the duties of the Department. The measure updates criminal code violations for Class A and Class C misdemeanor violations and penalties for unauthorized use or replication of Department uniforms, and repeals provisions for State Fire Marshal administration and enforcement of explosives.