

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**Measure: HB 2508**

82nd Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2023 Regular Session

Legislative Fiscal Office

Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed Versions are Considered Official

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Measure Description:

Directs Oregon Department Office of Emergency Management to administer grant program in support of projects to consolidate and modernize or upgrade public safety answering points.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Cities, Counties, Department of Emergency Management

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Costs related to the measure are indeterminate at this time - See explanatory analysis.

Analysis:

The measure directs the Department of Emergency Management (ODEM) to administer a grant program to support projects to consolidate and modernize or upgrade public safety answering points. Under this program, the Department may approve a maximum of two projects per biennium to support projects that demonstrate improved efficiency of the emergency communications system and, 9-1-1 and radio infrastructure upgrades that comply or are capable of being upgraded to comply with the Oregon Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan. Additional grants of up to \$500,000 may be provided to modernize and upgrade software or hardware for approved applicants, with a matching requirement of \$150,000 from the grant recipient. The grants include a cap of up to \$25,000 for consolidation plan development and \$50,000 for technical support on consolidation plan implementation. In addition, the measure requires ODEM to provide an update of the grant program to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to emergency preparedness on or before December 1 of each year. The program sunsets on January 2, 2043 and requires any remaining monies in the Fund to revert to the General Fund. The measure is effective January 1, 2024.

The measure establishes the Public Safety Answer Point Consolidation Fund, separate and distinct from the General Fund, credits interest earned back to the fund, and continuously appropriates monies in the fund to the Department. Finally, the measure provides a one-time, unspecified General Fund appropriation to ODEM for deposit into the fund.

The fiscal impact for ODEM is indeterminate as the amount of funding for the program is unknown. The Department does not have current resources to absorb the costs of developing and administering a new program. Depending on the amount of funds provided, and the demand for grants under the measure, the Department anticipates needing a permanent Accountant 2 and Program Analyst 3 position to implement the measure. With an effective date of January 1, 2024, the estimated costs of these two positions would be \$363,199 in 2023-25 and \$480,425 in the 2025-27 biennium. The Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO) notes that the Department would need Other Funds expenditure limitation to expend monies out of the Public Safety Answer Point Consolidation Fund.

There is no impact to counties and cities; however, there may be fiscal impact to 9-1-1 jurisdictions dependent on the successful application of funding for consolidation projects. This measure has a subsequent referral to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means for consideration of its budgetary impact on the State's General Fund.