

HB 2508 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/14, 3/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Office of Emergency Management to develop and administer a program for grants to consolidate, modernize, or upgrade 9-1-1 call centers. Sets guidelines and funding amounts for grantmaking. Requires the Department to adopt rules and submit a grant status report annually to the legislature. Establishes the 'Public Safety Answer Point Consolidation Fund'. Sunsets the program on January 2, 2043, and requires any remaining funds to revert to the general fund.

NOTE - Measure has subsequent referral to Committee on Ways and Means

FIS: Fiscal impact statement issued

RIS: No revenue impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Number of PSAP calls answered in 2022
- Previous PSAP consolidation efforts
- Technology and infrastructure needs of the system

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

9-1-1 services were established in Oregon in 1981 and the response system was originally designed for receiving landline phone calls. Public Safety Answering Point (PSAPs) are communication facilities that respond to 9-1-1 calls originating within their service area. There are currently 43 PSAPs in Oregon that cover all 36 counties.

Planning efforts between the Oregon Department of Emergency Management (OEM), advisory groups and stakeholders for next generation 9-1-1 services are ongoing. According to OEM, new wireless and Internet-based communications devices that use text and video messaging are being developed at a rapid rate and modernization of the system is needed for effective emergency response.

House Bill 2508 establishes the 'Public Safety Answer Point Consolidation Fund' to provide grants for projects that consolidate and modernize, or upgrade PSAPs. It requires OEM to adopt rules for grantmaking and submit grant status reports annually to the Legislative Assembly. The grant program sunsets on January 2, 2043, and the measure requires any remaining monies in the Fund to revert to the General Fund.