

HB 3484 -1 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: 3/21, 3/23

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes the State Fire Marshall Firefighting Costs Fund for eligible firefighting costs and reimbursement to firefighting organizations. Requires biennial fund reporting to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means and reverts unspent appropriated funds to the General Fund. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

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

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Confirms that proposed funds will be used for statewide emergency mobilization
- Constraints of current funding model for reimbursement to firefighting organizations

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Replaces original measure. Creates the State Fire Marshal Mobilization Fund in the State Treasury, separate from the General Fund. Fund consists of monies appropriated by the Legislative Assembly and Federal Emergency Management Agency grants received by the Department of the State Fire Marshal. Monies in the fund will be continually appropriate to the department for eligible mobilization costs and reimbursements. Expenditures of the fund will not be considered as a limited budget item but will be in addition to any specific biennial appropriations or amounts authorized from continuously appropriated moneys for any biennium. Defines eligible mobilization costs as expenses incurred for emergency mobilization and repositioning activities statewide. Each biennium the Department of the State Fire Marshal will request an appropriation for the fund an amount equal to twice the average annual expenditures by the department for eligible mobilization costs and reimbursements in the previous five years and requires the Legislative Assembly to appropriate no less than that amount. Each odd-numbered year the Department will revert the balance of the fund back to the General Fund and report to the standing or interim Joint Committee on Ways and Means a report on actual and anticipated expenditures and transfers. Requires the Legislative Assembly to appropriate monies to the fund beginning July 1, 2023. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

FIS: Fiscal statement issued for measure w/the -1 amendment

RIS: Revenue statement issued for measure w/the -1 amendment

BACKGROUND:

Senate Bill 762 (2021) provided direction and dedicated funding to modernize and improve wildfire preparedness statewide. The measure directed the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) to increase wildfire and readiness response, provided the authority to designate funding intended for the Oregon fire mutual aid system to support repositioning of resources and costs, and authorized OSFM to enter into contracts with jurisdictions for fire prevention, suppression, coordination and response.

House Bill 3484 creates the State Fire Marshal Firefighting Costs Fund for eligible firefighting costs and reimbursements to firefighting organizations for wildfire response and pre-positioning activities. Each biennium, the Department of the State Fire Marshal will request an appropriation for the Fund an amount equal to twice the

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average annual expenditures by the Department for firefighting costs and reimbursements in the previous five years and requires the Legislative Assembly to approve no less than that amount. Each odd-numbered year, the Department will revert the balance of the Fund back to the General Fund and report to the standing or interim Joint Committee on Ways and Means on actual and anticipated expenditures and transfers. The Legislative Assembly is directed to appropriate monies to the Fund beginning July 1, 2023.