HB 3485 A -A2   STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Natural Resources

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Meeting Dates:	5/3, 5/10

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Adds 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. Allows for standardized department uniforms and equipment. Updates criminal code violations for unauthorized use or replication of uniforms. Excludes retired members employed by the department for fire prevention, fire preparedness, fire risk mitigation, emergency response or other response supporting functions from limitation on hours worked.

FISCAL: Has minimal fiscal impact
REVENUE: No revenue impact
HOUSE VOTE: Ayes, 54; Nays, 0

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-A2 Removes prohibition on individuals from wearing, using, ordering, copying, or imitating department uniforms if they are not employees of the Department of the State Fire Marshal.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued
REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

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 A 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.