

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**Measure: HB 3484**

82nd Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2023 Regular Session

Legislative Fiscal Office

Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed Versions are Considered Official

Prepared by: Emily Coates
Reviewed by: April McDonald
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Measure Description:

Establishes State Fire Marshal Firefighting Costs Fund.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of the State Fire Marshal

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Costs related to the measure may require budgetary action - See analysis.

Analysis:

The measure establishes the State Fire Marshal Firefighting Costs Fund, separate and distinct from the General Fund and continuously appropriates monies to the Department of the State Fire Marshal (DSFM) for eligible firefighting costs and reimbursements incurred by the Department. The measure provides that expenditures shall not be a budget line item with a fixed limitation but, instead be in addition to any specific biennial appropriations or amounts authorized to be expended from continuously appropriated moneys for any biennial period. The measure requires the agency on July 1, of each odd-numbered year, to transfer any remaining balance in the Fund to the General Fund for governmental purposes.

The measure requires DSFM to request an appropriation for deposit into the Fund each biennium in an amount equal to twice the average annual expenditures over the past five years for eligible firefighting costs and reimbursements. In addition, DSFM, on or before March 31 of each odd-numbered year, shall report to the standing or interim Joint Committee on Ways and Means on the amounts deposited into the Fund during the current biennium, actual and anticipated expenditures for the current biennium, and the anticipated amount that will be transferred to the General Fund.

In addition, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, the measure provides an appropriation for deposit into the Fund in an amount equal to twice the average annual expenditures over the past five years incurred by the Department for eligible firefighting costs and reimbursements. This provision is repealed on June 30, 2025.

The measure declares an emergency and is effective upon passage.

DSFM reports the average annual expenditures over the past five years is \$31.9 million for firefighting costs and reimbursements. The Legislative Fiscal Office notes that the agency submitted a policy package in the agency request budget for the 2023-25 biennium requesting \$31.9 million General Fund for firefighting costs and reimbursements.

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.