

## HB 2508 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans

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**Action Date:** 03/21/23

**Action:** Do pass and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference

**Vote:** 7-0-0-0

**Yeas:** 7 - Conrad, Dexter, Evans, Grayber, Hieb, Lewis, Tran

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

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**Meeting Dates:** 3/14, 3/21

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#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Oregon Department of Emergency Management (OEM) to develop and administer a program for grants to consolidate, modernize, or upgrade 9-1-1 call centers. Authorizes 9-1-1 jurisdictions to apply for grants and establishes minimum application requirements. Sets guidelines and funding amounts for grantmaking. Requires OEM to adopt rules and submit a grant status report annually to the Legislative Assembly. Establishes the Public Safety Answer Point Consolidation Fund. Appropriates unspecified funding to OEM for deposit in the fund. Sunsets the program on January 2, 2043, and requires any remaining funds to revert to the General Fund.

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Number of public safety answering point (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 points (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 moneys in the fund to revert to the General Fund.