

## **SB 860 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

### **Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire**

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**Prepared By:** Alexa Piscanio, LPRO Analyst

**Sub-Referral To:** Joint Committee On Ways and Means

**Meeting Dates:** 2/4

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#### **WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

The measure modifies authority of the State Fire Marshal, Department of the State Fire Marshal, and its designated representatives regarding fire protection, education, and investigation. Authorizes OSFM to act on behalf of the Governor if unavailable during a fire emergency and revises the Governor's Fire Service Policy Council membership.

Fiscal impact: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.

Revenue impact: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.

#### Detailed Summary:

Requires that claims for fire protection equipment loss or damage must be submitted within 60 days to the Department of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM). Authorizes the Fire Marshal to offer technical assistance to media or public bodies for safety education and allows designated representatives to investigate and classify fires. Authorizes OSFM to purchase, contract for, or dispose of necessary materials, and act on behalf of the Governor if they are unavailable during emergencies. Revises the Governor's Fire Service Policy Council, removing the Superintendent of State Police as an ex officio member, while adding candidacy for representatives from The Special Districts Association of Oregon and Federally Recognized Oregon Tribes.

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

#### **EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

The State Fire Marshal is Oregon's leading authority on fire safety and emergency response, collaborating with local fire departments, government agencies, community organizations, and citizens to promote fire prevention, provide training and resources, and coordinate emergency response efforts. Under the Emergency Conflagration Act, outlined in Oregon Revised Statutes 476.510-476.610, the Governor has authority to manage fire emergencies in Oregon, with the Superintendent of State Police is currently listed as second in command if the Governor were to be unavailable. The Governor has authority under these statutes to assign fire-fighting forces and equipment to areas in need, respond to fires or heightened fire risks, issue orders, rules, and regulations to manage fires and can establish plans for the effective use of state fire-fighting resources. In addition, the Governor can direct local fire departments and officials to make their resources available with authorized reimbursement from the State, and appoint substitute firefighters when regular firefighters are unavailable. Finally, the Governor is responsible for ensuring reimbursements for aid and managing the financial aspects of these operations.