

HB 3426 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Judiciary

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Meeting Dates: 3/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure expands the public safety activities for which interference by unmanned aircraft systems is subject to criminal penalties, to include search and rescue efforts and all firefighting efforts.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Unmanned aircraft systems, commonly called drones, have occasionally interfered with fire suppression and emergency response efforts in Oregon. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulates the national airspace, and drones are considered aircraft under the FAA's jurisdiction. Federal law prohibits knowingly or recklessly interfering with wildfire suppression, law enforcement, or emergency response efforts by operation of unmanned aircraft. 49 U.S.C. § 46320. House Bill 2520 (2023) added state criminal penalties for recklessly causing interference with wildfire suppression, law enforcement, or emergency response efforts by a person that possesses or controls an unmanned aircraft system.