

SB 861 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/4, 3/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure includes grant funds, reimbursements and moneys received from judgements and settlements as funds that consist of the State Fire Marshal Mobilization Fund. It requires that the Department of the State Fire Marshal submit a report to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means on the amounts and expenditures appropriated in the fund on or before March 31 of each odd numbered year. Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

Fiscal impact: No fiscal impact

Revenue impact: No revenue impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- FEMA funds
- Expanding ability for new funding sources

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The State Fire Marshal Mobilization Fund, established by HB 3484 (2023) is a dedicated account in the State Treasury, separate from the General Fund, consisting of money appropriated by the Legislative Assembly, federal grants from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and other funds. The fund is used to cover eligible mobilization costs incurred by the Department of the State Fire Marshal (Department) for emergency mobilization and pre-positioning activities in Oregon, as well as reimbursements related to fire-fighting efforts.

The fund operates with continuous appropriation, and the Department must request an appropriation for the fund each biennium; additionally, on July 1 of each odd-numbered year, the fund balance is transferred to the General Fund. The Department is required to report biennially on the fund's deposits, expenditures, and the anticipated transfer to the General Fund.