

SB 860 -2 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 modifies authority of the State Fire Marshal, Department of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM), and its designated representatives regarding fire protection, education, and investigation. It 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: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue impact: No revenue impact

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:

- FEMA refunds and fund use

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 amendment revises the Governor's Fire Service Policy Council membership.

Detailed Summary:

Adds a representative from the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) as a designee and authorizes the Governor to appoint up to 12 members to the council. Additionally, it allows candidates from the Oregon Fire Service Office Administrators, their successors, or other organizations representing administrative personnel in Oregon fire service agencies to be eligible for council membership.

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

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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.

PRELIMINARY