

SB 860 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans

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Meeting Dates: 4/29

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure modifies the authority of the Department of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) and its designated representatives regarding fire protection, education, emergency authorities, and investigation. Amends statutes related to the Governor's Fire Service Policy Council.

Detailed Summary:

- Requires that claims for fire protection equipment loss or damage be submitted to the Department of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) instead of the Department of State Police.
- Authorizes OSFM to offer technical assistance to media or public bodies for safety education and allows their designated representative to investigate fires.
- Clarifies the State Fire Marshal can purchase and dispose of or contract for materials, supplies, equipment, or motor vehicles deemed necessary for carrying out their duties and authority.
- Authorizes the State Fire Marshal or deputy to act on behalf of the Governor under specified statutes if the Governor is unavailable during an emergency.
- Revises the Governor's Fire Service Policy Council membership, removing the Superintendent of State Police as an ex officio member, and adding a representative from the Oregon Health Authority as a non-voting ex-officio member.
- Allows the Governor to appoint a member from the Special Districts Association of Oregon, a structural fire response agency of a federally recognized Oregon Indian Tribes, and the Oregon Fire Service Office Administrators.
- Clarifies biennial reporting requirements for the Governor's Service Policy Council.

Fiscal impact: Minimal fiscal impact

Revenue impact: No revenue impact

Senate vote: Ayes 29, Excused 1

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 ORS 476.510-476.610), the Governor has authority to manage fire emergencies in Oregon, with the Superintendent of State Police currently listed as second in command if the Governor is 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.

PRELIMINARY