

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
900 Court Street NE, Room H-178
Salem, Oregon 97301
(503) 986-1828

Amanda Beitel, Legislative Fiscal Officer
Paul Siebert, Deputy Legislative Fiscal Officer
John Terpening, Deputy Legislative Fiscal Officer



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To: Public Safety Subcommittee
From: Katie Bannikov, Legislative Fiscal Office
Date: June 4, 2025
Subject: SB 863 – Relating to cost recovery for fire protection
Work Session Recommendations

The measure establishes a process and authority for the Department of the State Fire Marshal to recover fire suppression costs from a person who is willful, malicious, or negligent in the origin or subsequent spread of a fire. Additionally, the measure defines the actual cost to be the cost incurred or payments made by the Department to control or extinguish a fire. Lastly, the measure provides legal authorities for investigation and collection of amounts owed.

Anticipated costs to implement the measure are minimal and included in the Department's budget; however, the revenue impact is indeterminate. The number of fires and costs associated that may qualify for cost recovery are unknown. Additionally, the ability to collect and the timeline to do so are also unknown.

The disposition of the potential revenue is not included in the measure, which affords the Department the flexibility to deposit the revenue in the same fund where the original fire expenses were recorded, thereby matching revenue to expense in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

Final Subcommittee Action

LFO recommends that SB 863 be moved to the Ways and Means Full Committee.

MOTION: I move SB 863 to the Full Committee with a do pass recommendation. *(vote)*

Carriers

Full Committee:

House Floor:

Senate Floor: