



Legislative Fiscal Office
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Bill Title: Relating to cost recovery for fire protection.

Government Unit(s) Affected: Department of Administrative Services, Department of Revenue, County Clerks, Department of the State Fire Marshal, Judicial Department, Department of Justice, District Attorneys

Summary of Fiscal Impact

Costs related to the measure are indeterminate at this time - see explanatory analysis.

Measure Description

The measure authorizes the State Fire Marshal to recover the actual costs of controlling or extinguishing a fire from individuals found to have willfully, maliciously, or negligently caused or contributed to the fire. If a person fails to pay, the State Fire Marshal may initiate legal proceedings to collect the costs, including interest, and may file a lien against the individual's real or personal property. The Attorney General may assist in recovering costs or foreclosing on liens and is granted subpoena authority to investigate liability. Deputy state fire marshals are authorized to secure and control access to fire origin areas to preserve evidence and support investigations.

Fiscal Analysis

The estimated fiscal impact of the measure is indeterminate at this time.

Department of the State Fire Marshal

The Department of the State Fire Marshal (DSFM) anticipates using existing staff and resources to develop necessary rules, policies, and procedures related to implementation. Activities during the 2025-27 biennium would include researching similar cost recovery authorities in other jurisdictions, consulting with the Department of Justice (DOJ), and coordinating with local fire districts and other stakeholders.

Based on the 2024 fire season, response costs ranged from \$2,500 to \$4.6 million per fire. The number and nature of fires that may qualify for cost recovery under the measure are unknown. DSFM anticipates potential expenditures for Attorney General legal services and court fees; however, the timing and cost of pursuing those recoveries, including potential legal expenses, are also unknown. The measure does not specify where the revenue is required to be deposited which allows the agency the flexibility to record the revenue in the same fund where the expenditures were incurred following matching principles of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. Outside of anticipated rulemaking and legal consultation, the fiscal impact and revenue impact of the measure are indeterminate.

Other entities

The fiscal impact of the measure is minimal impact for DOJ and Oregon Judicial Department. The measure has no fiscal impact for District Attorneys, the Department of Administrative Services, Department of Revenue, or County Clerks.

Relevant Dates

The measure takes effect on January 1, 2026.