

HB 3150 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans

Action Date: 02/20/25

Action: Do pass and be referred to Revenue by prior reference

Vote: 5-0-2-0

Yeas: 5 - Grayber, Lewis, Skarlatos, Tran, Watanabe

Exc: 2 - Boice, Evans

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: Revenue impact issued

Prepared By: Beverly Anderson, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/4, 2/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure creates an income tax credit of \$1,000 to individuals who provide volunteer firefighting services in accordance with stipulated requirements.

Detailed Summary

- Allows a \$1,000 tax credit to residents and nonresidents who provide volunteer firefighting services in Oregon, including training hours and services to fire departments, rural fire protection districts, municipal corporations and other private or public safety agencies.
- Describes specific requirements that volunteers need to meet for the tax credit and prohibits the credit from exceeding the tax liability of the taxpayer or from being carried forward to another tax year.
- Allows the Department of Revenue to adopt rules relating to the administration and enforcement of the Act.
- Describes the nonresident tax credit allowance (ORS 316.117) and stipulates that it cannot be applied if a credit is claimed as a rural emergency medical services provider (ORS 315.622).
- Applies to tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2026, and before January 1, 2032.
- Takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Volunteer firefighter recruitment and retention efforts
- Personal expenses to volunteer firefighters responding to calls and to training activities
- Demonstrated need for volunteer firefighters

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

A volunteer firefighter is defined in ORS 652.050 as “a person who performs services as a firefighter for a regularly organized fire department and whose work hours and work shifts are voluntary and whose volunteer service is not a condition of employment.” According to the Oregon Volunteer Firefighter Association, Oregon has approximately 8,760 volunteer firefighters.