

SB 860 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**Carrier:** Sen. Girod**Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire****Action Date:** 03/13/25**Action:** Do pass with amendments and requesting subsequent referral to Ways and Means be rescinded. (Printed A-Eng.)**Vote:** 5-0-0-0**Yeas:** 5 - Girod, Golden, Nash, Prozanski, Taylor**Fiscal:** Has minimal fiscal impact**Revenue:** No revenue impact**Prepared By:** Alexa Piscanio, LPRO Analyst**Meeting Dates:** 2/4, 3/13**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

The measure modifies the 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 the State Fire Marshal to act on behalf of the Governor under the state's Emergency Conflagration Act if the Governor is unavailable. The Governor's Fire Service Policy Council membership is revised.

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 the Fire Marshal to offer technical assistance to media or public bodies for safety education and allows their designated representative to investigate fires. 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 (OHA) 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.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Federal Emergency Management Agency refunds and fund use

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

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

Detailed Summary:

Adds a representative from the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) as a non-voting ex officio member. Adds a member from the Special Districts Association, a structural fire response agency of a federally recognized Oregon Tribe, and the Oregon Fire Service Office Administrators or a successor or other organization as specified.

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

SB 860 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

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.