

SB 1125 B STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**Carrier:** Rep. Boice**House Committee On Rules****Action Date:** 06/25/25**Action:** Do pass with amendments to the A-Eng bill. (Printed B-Eng.)**Vote:** 7-0-0-0**Yeas:** 7 - Boshart Davis, Bowman, Drazan, Elmer, Kropf, Pham H, Valderrama**Fiscal:** Has minimal fiscal impact**Revenue:** Has minimal revenue impact**Prepared By:** Tisha Pascone**Meeting Dates:** 6/11, 6/25**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

The measure sets and elevates penalties for causing an unmanned aircraft system (UAS) to interfere with a law enforcement, firefighting, search and rescue, or emergency response effort.

Detailed Summary

Sets the following penalties for causing a UAS to interfere with a law enforcement, firefighting, search and rescue, or emergency response effort:

- a Class B Misdemeanor for recklessly causing the interference, and a Class A Misdemeanor for a subsequent offense;
- a Class C Felony for knowingly or intentionally causing the interference; and
- a Class A Felony for knowingly, intentionally, or recklessly causing death or serious physical injury with the interference.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Interference incidents
- Deterrent effect of criminal penalties
- Adopted amendment includes provisions of House Bill 3426 A (2025)
- Measure does not include any provisions of Senate Bill 238 A (2025) or proposed amendments to that bill

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

The amendment incorporates provisions from House Bill 3426 A (2025), makes conforming changes to the measure, and removes the Class B felony from the measure.

BACKGROUND:

Unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), commonly called drones, have occasionally interfered with fire suppression and emergency response efforts in Oregon. The U.S. Forest Service [reported](#) instances of UAS interference with wildfire suppression efforts in Oregon in 2017 and 2018. In [September 2022](#), the Oregon Department of Forestry's Southwest Oregon District Office temporarily suspended use of a helicopter as part of structural fire response due to UAS interference. In [June 2024](#), UAS interference grounded an aircraft that was responding to the Applegate Fire in Jackson County. Another such incident occurred in [January 2025](#) while firefighters were attempting to respond to the Palisades fires in California; a UAS left a football-sized hole in the wing of a water-dropping "super scooper."

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulates the national airspace, and drones are considered aircraft under the FAA's jurisdiction. Federal law prohibits knowingly or recklessly interfering with wildfire suppression, law enforcement, or emergency response efforts by operation of unmanned aircraft. 49 U.S.C. § 46320. House Bill 2520 (2023) added state criminal penalties for recklessly causing interference with wildfire suppression, law

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enforcement, or emergency response efforts by a person who possesses or controls an unmanned aircraft system. As a result, ORS 837.374 currently makes it a Class A violation for a person possessing or controlling an unmanned aircraft system to recklessly cause interference with wildfire suppression efforts. Also in 2023, Senate Bill 810 created a Class A felony for knowingly, intentionally, or recklessly causing death or serious physical injury by interfering with other aircraft. Senate Bill 1125 B increases penalties for UAS interference with a law enforcement, firefighting, search and rescue, or emergency response effort.