

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass
Vote:	5 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Baertschiger, Burdick, Close, Prozanski, Roblan
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Racquel Rancier, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	2/7, 3/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Authorizes rural fire protection districts and state or local law enforcement agencies to enter into contracts for agencies to provide special level or type of law enforcement services. Outlines provisions contract may include.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Optional and voluntary alternative to fund law enforcement in rural areas
- First responders are not trained to engage in law enforcement
- Need for joint fire and law enforcement response to clear structure can lead to delayed response
- Cities currently have authority to contract with counties for law enforcement but unclear if law permits rural fire protection districts to contract for law enforcement
- Logistics of contracting for service within area and provisions for responding outside of area

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Rural fire protection districts are authorized to levy property taxes to provide fire protection and other public safety services. Rural fire protection districts work with law enforcement personnel to respond to certain emergencies; however, they are not authorized to contract with law enforcement agencies to obtain dedicated law enforcement personnel to assist them on calls. As provided in ORS Chapter 478, districts are authorized to contract for water services and facilities, emergency medical service equipment and services, fire protection and road-lighting facilities and services, mutual communication systems, and regional oil and hazardous materials emergency response teams. Senate Bill 422 clarifies that rural fire protection districts may enter into contracts with law enforcement agencies for the provision of law enforcement services.