77th OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY – 2013 Regular Session   **MEASURE: HB 2179**
STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY   **CARRIER:**
House Committee on Veterans' Services and Emergency Preparedness

REVENUE: No revenue impact
FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by Prior Reference
Vote:	7 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Boone, Esquivel, Fagan, Huffman, Parrish, Witt, Matthews
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Elizabeth Edwards, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	3/19, 3/26

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Designates Emergency Communications Account exclusively for emergency communication purposes. Makes explicit that State of Oregon has no proprietary interest in this account and is contractually obliged to utilize contents of account only as designated in ORS 403.240. Applies to moneys deposited in Emergency Communications Account on or after date of passage. Declares emergency; effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:
- Ability of future legislative bodies to reverse position
- How to prevent sweeps of 911 account
- Role of 911 dispatchers
- Public trust in how tax dollars are spent
- Increased transparency

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Oregon Revised Statute 403.240 outlines the purposes for which the contents of the Emergency Communications Account can be used. The Office of Emergency Management is required to distribute the entire amount of the moneys in the Emergency Communications Account quarterly. These moneys are to be used to cover a range of expenses associated with the Oregon Emergency Response System, the Enhanced 9-1-1 Subaccount, pay station telephones, and operational expenses. Funds from the Emergency Communications Account have been "swept" (diverted for other purposes) by the Legislature six times, although three of those sweeps were vetoed by the governor. House Bill 2179 reiterates that funds in the Emergency Communications Account are statutorily dedicated to emergency response purposes only, and should not be diverted.

3/27/2013 10:50:00 AM
This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.
Committee Services Form – 2013 Regular Session