

HB 2183 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Business and Labor

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Meeting Dates: 3/1

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Transfers duty of reviewing plans and inspecting health care facilities from State Fire Marshal to Department of Consumer and Business Services. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Office of the State Fire Marshal (Office), housed within the Oregon State Police Department, is charged with protecting citizens, their property and the environment from fire and hazardous materials. The Office's Fire and Life Safety Services Branch conducts inspections, investigates fires, provides technical assistance to community organizations, industry associations and local fire and building officials on fire and life safety issues, and manages the youth fire prevention and intervention program. The Office oversees 18 deputy state fire marshals across Oregon, whose responsibilities include conducting inspections of schools and correctional facilities, reviewing building plans and providing code consultations. State law provides authority for deputy state fire marshals to inspect any structure except for private residences.

In 2015, the Legislative Assembly passed Senate Bill 886, requiring the State Fire Marshal, the deputy or assistant of State Fire Marshal, or any person acting for a governmental subdivision who inspects a health care facility for structural requirements and issues a citation or order for nonconformity with fire safety standards, to include the reference to the specific law, regulation, rule or other source of authority that establishes the fire safety standard and to include a plain statement of facts upon which the citation or order is based.

Following the 2015 session, a work group was formed at the request of Governor Brown to improve the process for inspections and approvals related to the construction or remodel of health care facilities. The four agencies involved -- Oregon Health Authority (OHA), Department of Human Services (DHS), Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS), and Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM)-- joined other interested stakeholders in the discussion. OHA contracted with Coraggio Group to provide an independent analysis and to make recommendations. The resulting recommendations are being implemented by OHA, DHS and OSFM.