

**FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

**Measure: HB 2472**

79th Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2017 Regular Session  
Legislative Fiscal Office

*Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed  
Versions are Considered Official*

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**Measure Description:**

Directs State Medical Examiner to assume counties' responsibilities related to death investigations.

**Government Unit(s) Affected:**

Counties, Oregon State Police (OSP)

**Summary of Expenditure Impact:**

Agency -- Fund Type	2017-19 Biennium	2019-21 Biennium
Oregon State Police -- General Fund	\$2,932,300	\$9,079,539
Positions / FTE	24 / 12.16	55 / 44.00

**Analysis:**

The measure directs the State Medical Examiner (SME) to assume counties responsibilities related to death investigations and directs the SME to establish regions for administration purposes. The measure provides a timeline for the SME to assume responsibility within all counties by July 1, 2021.

Currently, the SME office provides supervision and support to the local County Medical Examiners and counties are responsible for funding and operating the local death investigation programs. Oregon State Police (OSP) anticipates an additional 55 FTE would be required to subsume statewide responsibility for this program, phased in over four years.

For 2017-19, OSP anticipates the addition of 14 positions, 9.40 FTE, to operate in the Southern Region of the state. This phase-in would occur in three stages, with hiring's beginning July 1, again on October 1, and the final eight positions being hired July 1, 2018. Total estimated costs, including services and supplies and capital outlay total \$2,193,726 General Fund. In the latter half of the 2017-19 biennium, OSP would phase-in the Eastern Region, with initial hires coming October 1, 2018 and then the rest of the positions beginning January 1, 2019. Costs for this region are estimated at \$738,574 General Fund for the 10 positions (2.76 FTE) and associated services and supplies and capital outlay. Total cost in 2017-19 is \$2,932,300 General Fund.

Beginning in the 2019-21 biennium, OSP would first phase-in the Willamette Valley/Central Region, with nine positions (9.00 FTE) beginning July 1, 2019. Total cost for this region is estimated to be \$1,712,086 General Fund. In the second year of the biennium, OSP would initiate the final phase-in of the Northwest Region with 22 positions (11.00 FTE) at a total cost of \$2,294,243 General Fund. Total cost in 2019-21 is \$9,079,539 General Fund as all regional facilities become operative.

OSP notes that the availability of facility space is an issue that has not been addressed in the fiscal impact estimates and would require further analysis and additional resources.