

HB 4111 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Rules

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Meeting Dates: 2/24

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Authorizes the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) to enter into agreement with a nonprofit organization representing sheriffs in the state under which organization is authorized to administer program to produce and sell outdoor recreation search and rescue cards to be sold to the public to fund county sheriff search and rescue activities. Requires OEM to report annually on administration and effectiveness of card program. Requires organization to maintain funds from card sales in separate account and expend funds only to reimburse county sheriff's offices for search and rescue expenses, issue grants to county sheriff's offices for search and rescue purposes, and to reimburse organization for administration of the card program. Establishes requirements for reimbursements and grants. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Office of Emergency Management (OEM), housed within the Oregon Military Department, is required to coordinate and facilitate public and private efforts to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies. OEM is required to maintain a liaison with the Oregon State Sheriffs' Association and other public agencies who involved in search and rescue activities, and to annually publish an inventory of state search and rescue resources. The sheriff of each county is responsible for search and rescue activities in that county and must adopt a search and rescue plan that meets federal standards. The state does not provide dedicated funding for search and rescue activities, but a public body that provides search and rescue services may seek reimbursement up to \$500 from each person helped by search and rescue efforts, if that person did not exercise reasonable care or violated applicable laws.

House Bill 4111-A seeks to provide additional funding for county search and rescue services by allowing the Oregon State Sheriffs' Association, under an agreement with the Office of Emergency Management, to sell search and rescue cards through authorized retailers. The cards would allow retail customers to make voluntary donations to a dedicated fund which would be used to finance county sheriff search and rescue efforts.