

HB 2927 -1, -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Management

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/11, 2/25

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Renames Office of Emergency Management to Oregon Department of Emergency Management (ODEM) and establishes Department as independent state agency. Transfers all unexpended balances for Office of Emergency Management within Oregon Military Department to Oregon Department of Emergency Management. Transfers Oregon Emergency Response System from Department of State Police to Oregon Department of Emergency Management. Confers to Oregon Department of Emergency Management certain emergency authorities regarding public health emergencies, emergency quarantines and conflagrations. Transfers rulemaking authority regarding nuclear emergencies from State Department of Energy to Oregon Department of Emergency Management. Directs ODEM to carry out certain functions related to regional and statewide emergency preparedness. Renames Office of State Fire Marshal to Department of State Fire Marshal (DSFM) and establishes Department as independent state agency. Transfers all unexpended balances for Office of State Fire Marshal within Department of State Police to Department of State Fire Marshal. Transfers search and rescue duties, functions, and powers from Oregon Department of Emergency Management to Department of State Fire Marshal. Transfers all unexpended balances for search and rescue functions within Oregon Department of Emergency Management to Department of State Fire Marshal. Requires State Fire Marshal to establish wildfire buffer zone guidelines to provide defensible space for lands in forestland-urban interfaces. Renames Oregon Homeland Security Council to Oregon Homeland Security Commission and transfers Commission to Office of the Governor. Modifies duties of Commission and adds members to Commission. Transfers all unexpended balances for Oregon Homeland Security Council within Oregon Department of Emergency Management to Office of the Governor for Oregon Homeland Security Commission. Establishes Emergency Preparedness Advisory Council to advise and make policy recommendations to Oregon Homeland Security Commission regarding federal emergency support functions. Established Local Government Emergency Management Advisory Council to provide advice and recommendations to Oregon Department of Emergency Management regarding department's emergency preparedness and response functions. Becomes operative on July 1, 2023.

Subsequent referral to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means

REVENUE: *No revenue impact*

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The need to think globally about supply chains
- Funding streams impacted by competing for resources
- Support package of bills
- All hazards approach to emergency management
- Need for organizational structure to be clearly defined
- Turning Emergency Coordination Center in to a 24/7 operation
- Began working on this reorganization in 2017
- Clarifies formal and informal roles
- Emergency Preparedness Advisory Council being equal to Oregon Homeland Security Commission

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- Need for a time line to ensure implementation
- Plan to review implementation one year after full implementation is completed
- Amendment needed to fix two drafting errors to match previously agreed upon fixes
- Sheriffs will retain traditional search and rescue roles
- Conflagration matters to remain with the State Fire Marshal but to work closely with the Department of Emergency Management
- 2020 displaying the need for reorganization
- Opportunity to enhance 911 data gathering
- Opportunity to enhance emergency communications across the state
- Bringing the office of Emergency Management and the Office of the State Fire Marshal up to modern standards
- Going to Emergency Management work group
- Lack of clarity on who is in charge and each agency's role
- After Action Report's areas for improvement in line with plan laid out in bill

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Removes Sections 19-22 regarding Department of Energy programs; restores original statutory language. Removes Sections 97-107 regarding search and rescue, records, property, employees, action, proceedings, prosecution, liability, duty, and obligations; restores original statutory language.

-2 Removes requirement that State Fire Marshal establish guidelines for wildfire buffer zones that provide defensible space on lands in forestland-urban interface.

BACKGROUND:

The Office of Emergency Management is located within the Oregon Military Department. The Director of the office is appointed by the Adjutant General, with the approval of the Governor. The Director is also a the liaison between the Governor's Disaster Cabinet and the State's Emergency Coordination Center. The Office of the State Fire Marshal is located within the Office of the State Police. The State Fire Marshal is appointed by, and serves at the pleasure of, the Superintendent of State Police.

The Oregon Homeland Security Council is part of the Office of Emergency Management. The council consists of two members from the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, two members from the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Governor, the Adjutant General, the Superintendent of State Police, the Director of the Office of Emergency Management, and a representative of the Department of Justice appointed by the Attorney General. The purpose of the council is to be briefed on security matters and to advise state agencies with responsibility for security matters on the future direction of the office's planning, preparedness, response and recovery activities.

House Bill 2927 renames the Office of Emergency Management and Office of the State Fire Marshal, and establishes each as an independent state agency. The measure also creates the Emergency Preparedness Advisory Council and the Local Government Emergency Management Advisory Council.