

HB 2593 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Prepared By: Tim Walker, Fiscal Analyst

Meeting Dates: 6/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows Office of Emergency Management (OEM) to enter into agreement with nonprofit organization representing sheriffs, under which the organization is authorized to establish and administer program to produce and issue outdoor recreation search and rescue contribution cards (card), to receive donations that support search and rescue efforts. Requires OEM to report to Legislative Assembly annually on administration and effectiveness of program, if OEM enters into agreement. Specifies that receipt of card does not exempt beneficiary of search and rescue services from responsibility to reimburse the relevant public body. Makes card valid for one year. Allows organization to issue multiyear card for a period not to exceed five years. Limits cost of annual card to \$10 for an individual or \$25 for a family; cost of multiyear card is limited to \$50 for an individual or \$125 for a family. Specifies agent's fee may not exceed five percent of retail price of card. Directs organization to establish system for collecting revenues from card sales from authorized agents, less any fees retained by same, and to create separate account for purposes of the card program. Allows organization to solicit and accept gifts, grants or donations from public or private sources for deposit in account. Requires money in account to be used to reimburse county sheriffs for search and rescue expenses; to issue grants to county sheriffs' offices for search and rescue; and to reimburse organization's administrative costs for card program, not to exceed 10 percent of aggregate revenues from card sales collected. Requires organization to provide OEM with detailed accounting quarterly. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Funding needed to meet 21st century needs
- Resistance to current funding method
- Number of search and rescue operations in Oregon
- Inability to respond in a timely manner
- Sheriffs' groups approval of the measure
- Program funded by users

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Office of Emergency Management (OEM) within the Oregon Military Department (OMD) operates the State Search and Rescue (SAR) Program to coordinate with local jurisdictions in need of assistance finding people who become lost or injured in a variety of circumstances, including while recreating. To do so, OEM maintains cooperative agreements to tap the resources of a number of different entities, and serves as liaison with the Oregon County Sheriff's Association Search and Rescue Advisory Council whose members represent SAR coordinators from each of Oregon's 36 counties.

House Bill 2593 directs OEM to enter into agreements with nonprofit organizations to create and administer a program to produce and issue outdoor recreation search and rescue cards to allow the public to make voluntary contributions to search and rescue efforts in Oregon. The measure requires all the money collected to be used to reimburse county sheriffs for search and rescue expenses and to issue grants to county sheriffs' offices for search and rescue.