

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**Measure: SB 893**81st Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2021 2nd Special Session
Legislative Fiscal Office***Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official***

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Measure Description:

Requires prioritizing financial assistance to local law enforcement agencies to partner with community-based organizations in order to address humanitarian crisis associated with unlawful marijuana cultivation or distribution operations in awarding grants through Illegal Marijuana Market Enforcement Grant Program.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Criminal Justice Commission (CJC)

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Costs related to the measure are anticipated to be minimal - See explanatory analysis.

Summary of Expenditure Impact:

See Analysis.

Analysis: The measure requires the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) to prioritize grants out of the Illegal Marijuana Market Enforcement Grant Program (IMMEGP) Fund to cities and counties affected by the illegal cultivation and distribution of marijuana that address the ongoing humanitarian crisis associated with illegal marijuana operations. Grants may also be used for language translation services, housing, and legal assistance to individuals affected. The bill expands the permissible uses of the IMMEGP funds and will require some level of rulemaking by CJC that can be absorbed with current resources. In addition, CJC will develop processes and requirements for awarding grants.

The Illegal Marijuana Market Enforcement Grant Program Fund was established under section 15, chapter 103, Oregon Laws 2018 and is intended to assist cities and counties with costs incurred by law enforcement and district attorneys in enforcement efforts against illegal marijuana grows and distribution operations. CJC is responsible for the grant program, overseeing rulemaking, designing the application process, and grant management. CJC incurs a minimal fiscal impact for administering this grant program. An omnibus budget bill is anticipated to provide a \$20 million General Fund appropriation to increase available funding in the IMMEGP Fund and \$20 million in Other Funds expenditure limitation for the purposes of distributing grants, which is not expected to impose an additional fiscal impact on CJC.

In general, grant proceeds are used to pay for personnel, supplies, travel, training, other expenses, and administrative expenses for interdiction activities associated with illegal marijuana grows and illegal distribution,

In 2019-21 the following three grant applications were approved by the CJC:

- Jackson County Sherriff's Office, the Jackson County District Attorneys, and the City of Medford - \$1,283,852
- Josephine County Sheriff's Office and the Josephine County District Attorneys - \$941,613
- Deschutes County, Deschutes County District Attorneys, and the Bend Police Department - \$436,897

The total grants disbursed or 2019-21 was \$2,662,362 out of a total of \$3 million available. The balance was used by CJC for administering the grants.

For 2021-23, the following grants have been approved by the Commission out of a total of \$6 million available, but not all of the grants have been executed at this point.

- Jackson County Sherriff's Office, the Jackson County District Attorneys, and the City of Medford - \$2,567,704.
- Josephine County Sheriff's Office and the Josephine County District Attorneys - \$1,883,226
- Deschutes County, Deschutes County District Attorneys, and the Bend Police Department - \$556,089
- Polk County Sheriff's Office - \$642,980.

CJC estimates an additional 6 - 10 grants may be approved by the Commission with the additional funding provided by the Legislature. It is not known how many counties may apply for these grants. Outside of the five largest counties there are 31 that may be eligible. Ultimately the review/advisory committee will make decisions based the best use of funds.

Eligible applicants include units of local government, such as cities and counties, and agencies organized under statute, and city or county charter. Cities and counties may apply on behalf of agencies or organizations within their boundaries. Cities and counties who have opted out of recreational marijuana sales may also apply.

The 2021-23 Legislatively Approved Budget (LAB) for IMMEGP activities will total \$26 million with the additional \$20 million General Fund proposed in the omnibus budget bill. This also includes \$3 million Other Funds that was provided via HB 3000 (2021) and \$3 million Other Funds approved in CJC's 2021-23 LAB. The 2019-21 LAB provided \$3 million Other Funds and 2017-19 provided \$1.5 million Other Funds for these activities. Other Funds for the program are available from quarterly Marijuana Tax distributions to CJC.