

## **SB 1541 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

### **Senate Committee On Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110 Implementation**

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**Prepared By:** Patricia Pascone, LPRO Analyst

**Sub-Referral To:** Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

**Meeting Dates:** 2/7, 2/8

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#### **WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Directs the Department of State Police (OSP) to establish a unit within OSP to assist counties with response to unlawful marijuana cultivation and distribution. Requires OSP to provide a minimum of \$500,000 annually in resources to each county for the response and general law enforcement needs. Directs OSP to allocate additional resources to counties with greatest demonstrated need. Provides transfer of \$15 million per quarter from the Oregon Marijuana Account to the State Police Account and appropriates \$2 million per biennium from the General Fund to OSP for these purposes. Modifies the quarterly allocation from the Oregon Marijuana Account to the Drug Treatment and Recovery Services Fund, from amounts in excess of \$11.25 million to amounts in excess of \$26.25 million. Effective Jan. 1, 2023 for changes relating to transfers from the Marijuana Account, establishment of a new unit within OSP, and allocation of resources to counties. Declares emergency, effective upon passage.

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

#### **EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

Growing and processing marijuana in Oregon is legal for businesses that are registered with the State and comply with state rules and laws, but unregistered and illegal operations have overwhelmed some Oregon counties. Jackson County and Douglas County both declared a state of emergency in October 2021 related to illegal marijuana operations, requesting revenue and resources from the Governor and Legislature to assist in enforcement of state laws and local codes. The Sheriff of Josephine County estimated they had hundreds of illegal marijuana operations. Illegal operations create public safety concerns and strains on enforcement resources and are associated with water theft and unlawful working conditions. The Oregon Office of Economic Analysis projects \$340 million in marijuana tax revenue for the 2021-2023 biennium and \$362 million for the 2023-2025 biennium.

In 2018, Senate Bill 1544 established an Illegal Marijuana Market Enforcement account to award and administer grants to local law enforcement for addressing illegal marijuana operations. The Criminal Justice Commission administers the grants and awards approximately \$1.3 million annually. The grant account is funded by the Oregon Marijuana Account, and quarterly revenue distributions to the grant program end in the last quarter of 2023.

Senate Bill 1541 directs OSP to establish a unit to assist Oregon counties and distribute resources for responses to unlawful marijuana operations and allots funds from the Oregon Marijuana Account and General Fund to OSP for this purpose.