

SB 766 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Prepared By: Patricia Pascone, LPRO Analyst

Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/22, 3/16

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Creates an additional category of grants in the Illegal Marijuana Market Enforcement Grant Program ("IMMEGP"), to provide financial assistance to the Department of State Police for costs incurred in addressing illegal cannabis operations, including equipment, contract services, and personnel expenses related to investigation and prosecution. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

REVENUE: Revenue Impact issued

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Oregon State Police role in providing assistance to county and local law enforcement
- History of funding law enforcement response after Ballot Measure 91 (2014)
- Ballot Measure 110 (2020) capped law enforcement funding drawn from marijuana taxes

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 Allocates \$51 million in general fund monies to the Criminal Justice Commission for IMMEGP grants to be allocated to the following grant categories: \$5 million for grants to the Oregon State Police, \$6 million for local law enforcement and community-based organizations, and \$40 million for other grants. Allocates \$750,000 in general fund monies to the Department of Justice for the purpose of prosecuting labor trafficking associated with illegal cannabis operations.

BACKGROUND:

The Task Force on Cannabis-Derived Intoxicants was created by House Bill 3000 (2021), and then expanded to include Illegal Cannabis Production in Senate Bill 1564 (2022) to recommend legislative changes supporting law enforcement's response to illegal cannabis operations. The Task Force members heard from local and state law enforcement about the increase in number and complexity of illegal operations, the geographic spread of the operations, the Oregon State Police's role in assisting local law enforcement, and enforcement actions that Oregon State Police coordinates. The Task Force agreed upon several recommendations, including those contained in Senate Bill 766.

In 2018, Senate Bill 1544 established the Illegal Marijuana Market Enforcement Grant Program Fund to assist local law enforcement agencies in their efforts to address illegal marijuana markets and operations. The program expanded with SB 893 (2021) (second special session) to include grants for local law enforcement to partner with community-based organizations to address the humanitarian crises associated with unlawful cultivation and distribution. After HB 4074 (2022), grants could be made directly to the community-based organizations. The Criminal Justice Commission administers and awards the grants, based on statutorily designated priority levels. The Oregon State Police grants would be the last of six priority categories under the measure.

Senate Bill 766 would add a category of Illegal Marijuana Market Enforcement grants for costs incurred by the Oregon State Police in addressing illegal cannabis operations.