

HB 3484 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/21, 3/23

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes the State Fire Marshall Firefighting Costs Fund for eligible firefighting costs and reimbursement to firefighting organizations. Requires biennial fund reporting to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means and reverts unspent appropriated funds to the General Fund. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Senate Bill 762 (2021) provided direction and dedicated funding to modernize and improve wildfire preparedness statewide. The measure directed the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) to increase wildfire and readiness response, provided the authority to designate funding intended for the Oregon fire mutual aid system to support repositioning of resources and costs, and authorized OSFM to enter into contracts with jurisdictions for fire prevention, suppression, coordination and response.

House Bill 3484 creates the State Fire Marshal Firefighting Costs Fund for eligible firefighting costs and reimbursements to firefighting organizations for wildfire response and pre-positioning activities. Each biennium, the Department of the State Fire Marshal will request an appropriation for the Fund an amount equal to twice the average annual expenditures by the Department for firefighting costs and reimbursements in the previous five years and requires the Legislative Assembly to approve no less than that amount. Each odd-numbered year, the Department will revert the balance of the Fund back to the General Fund and report to the standing or interim Joint Committee on Ways and Means on actual and anticipated expenditures and transfers. The Legislative Assembly is directed to appropriate monies to the Fund beginning July 1, 2023.