

## SB 766 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### Senate Committee On Judiciary

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**Action Date:** 03/16/23

**Action:** Do pass with amendments. Refer to Ways and Means by prior reference. (Printed A-Eng).

**Vote:** 4-0-1-0

**Yeas:** 4 - Gelser Blouin, Linthicum, Prozanski, Thatcher

**Exc:** 1 - Manning Jr

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** Revenue impact issued

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

**Meeting Dates:** 2/22, 3/16

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#### 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. Allocates \$51 million in General Fund moneys 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 community-based organizations, and \$40 million for other grants. Allocates \$750,000 in General Fund moneys to the Department of Justice for the purpose of prosecuting labor trafficking associated with unlawful marijuana cultivation or distribution operations. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

#### 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:

Allocates \$51 million in General Fund moneys to the Criminal Justice Commission for IMMEGP grants allocated to certain grant categories. Allocates \$750,000 to the Department of Justice for prosecuting labor trafficking issues associated with unlawful marijuana cultivation or distribution operations.

#### BACKGROUND:

The Task Force on Cannabis-Derived Intoxicants was created by House Bill 3000 (2021) and 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 the Oregon State Police coordinate. The Task Force made several recommendations, including those contained in Senate Bill 766 A.

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 Senate Bill 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 House Bill 4074 (2022) was enacted, 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

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under the measure.

Senate Bill 766 A adds a category of Illegal Marijuana Market Enforcement grants for costs incurred by the Oregon State Police in addressing illegal cannabis production, and allocates \$51 million in General Funds to the Criminal Justice Commission for all IMMEGP grants and \$750,000 to the Department of Justice for labor trafficking prosecution associated with unlawful marijuana cultivation or distribution operations.