

HB 3484 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans

Action Date: 03/28/23

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

Vote: 6-0-1-0

Yeas: 6 - Conrad, Evans, Grayber, Hieb, Lewis, Tran

Exc: 1 - Dexter

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: Revenue impact issued

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Meeting Dates: 3/21, 3/28

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Creates the State Fire Marshal Mobilization Fund in the State Treasury, separate from the General Fund, consisting of moneys appropriated by the Legislative Assembly and Federal Emergency Management Agency grants received by the Department of the State Fire Marshal. Continually appropriates moneys in the fund to the department for eligible mobilization costs and reimbursements; specifies that expenditures of the fund are not a limited budget item, but in addition to any specific biennial appropriations or amounts authorized. Defines "eligible mobilization costs" as expenses incurred for emergency mobilization and prepositioning activities statewide. Directs the department of the State Fire Marshal each biennium to request an appropriation for the fund an amount equal to twice the average annual expenditures by the department for eligible mobilization costs and reimbursements in the previous five years and requires the Legislative Assembly to appropriate no less than that amount. Each odd-numbered year the department is directed to revert the balance of the fund back to the General Fund and report to the standing or interim Joint Committee on Ways and Means a report on actual and anticipated expenditures and transfers. Requires the Legislative Assembly to appropriate moneys to the fund beginning July 1, 2023. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Proposed funds to be used for statewide emergency mobilization
- Constraints of current funding model for reimbursement to firefighting organizations

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

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 prepositioning of resources and costs, and authorized OSFM to enter into contracts with jurisdictions for fire prevention, suppression, coordination, and response.

House Bill 3484 A creates the State Fire Marshal Mobilization Fund for eligible firefighting costs and reimbursements to firefighting organizations for wildfire response and pre-positioning activities. Directs the Department of the State Fire Marshal each biennium to 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

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odd-numbered year, directs the department to 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 moneys to the fund beginning July 1, 2023.