

HB 3485 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Conrad

House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans

Action Date: 03/28/23
Action: Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)
Vote: 6-0-1-0
Yeas: 6 - Conrad, Evans, Grayber, Hieb, Lewis, Tran
Exc: 1 - Dexter
Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact
Revenue: No revenue impact
Prepared By: Beverly Schoonover, LPRO Analyst
Meeting Dates: 3/21, 3/28

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Adds additional discretionary powers to the Department of the State Fire Marshal including the authority to establish headquarters and regional offices of the department and to own and operate emergency response vehicles. Allows for standardized department uniforms and equipment. Updates criminal code violations for unauthorized use or replication of uniforms. Excludes retired members employed by the department for fire prevention, fire preparedness, fire risk mitigation, emergency response or other response supporting functions from limitation on hours worked.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Authority of the newly designated Department of the State Fire Marshal
- Potential of amendment or further refinement of duties of the new department

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Removes from original measure the repeal of statutes related to State Fire Marshal regulation of explosives.

BACKGROUND:

House Bill 2927 (2021) elevated and reorganized the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) to the Department of the State Fire Marshal, effective July 1, 2023. Agency alignment, resource competition, historic wildfires and catastrophic events were cited for the need for elevating the office to an independent state agency.

House Bill 3485 A adds additional discretionary powers to the Department of the State Fire Marshal including the authority to establish headquarters and regional offices of the department and to own and operate emergency response vehicles. It provides for standardized uniforms, response apparatus, vehicles, and equipment to carry out the duties of the department . The measure updates criminal code violations for Class A and Class C misdemeanor violations and penalties for unauthorized use or replication of department uniforms.