

## SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

### **Item 20: Department of the State Fire Marshal 2025 Fire Season**

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To: Ways and Means Full Committee  
From: Public Safety Subcommittee  
Carrier: Representative Evans

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The Public Safety Subcommittee heard a request from the Department of the State Fire Marshal on the 2025 fire season.

During the 2025 fire season, the Department of the State Fire Marshal mobilized firefighting resources for seven prepositioning and readiness response activities and eight conflagrations. Total estimated costs for the agency for the 2025 fire season are \$17.6 million. Of this amount, \$7.8 million is estimated to be reimbursed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency Fire Management Assistance grant program, which has historically taken one to three years to distribute funds.

In the 2025 legislative session, the agency received \$10 million toward fire response costs, leaving the difference of \$7.6 million to fully cover the costs of the 2025 fire season while waiting for federal reimbursement. This brings the balance owed to the General Fund pending receipt of Federal Emergency Management Agency reimbursement to \$25.3 million dating back to the 2023 fire season.

The Public Safety Subcommittee recommends that the Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means recommend appropriating \$7,621,128 General Fund to the Department of the State Fire Marshal with a corresponding decrease in the

special purpose appropriation to the Emergency Board for natural disaster prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery in a budget reconciliation bill during the 2026 legislative session for 2025 fire season costs.