



E-Board Provides \$1.56 Million for State Police, \$9 Million for State Hospital and Requires Further Information from Dept. of Human Services

At its first meeting of the year, the state Emergency Board met Jan. 19th and 20th and provided additional funding to the Oregon State Police and the State Hospital while requiring the Department of Human Services to report back to legislators with more detailed information regarding their \$172 million shortfall.

Acting at the initiative of the Speaker and Senate President, the E-Board approved providing the Oregon State Police \$660,000 to hire ten evidence technicians. This will allow up to eight sworn-officers who are currently performing this job to be returned to patrol duties. In addition, \$900,910 was set aside for the April E-Board to hire ten new troopers, which when combined with current positions already funded but held vacant, could result in a new recruit school in the spring of at least 20 troopers.

“The E-Board’s actions this week will allow us to quickly put additional troopers on our roads while setting aside money to fund a new recruit cycle in the spring,” said Speaker Minnis. “Oregon State Police troopers are often the only law enforcement on hundreds of miles of Oregon roads. Adding troopers immediately will help provide some relief and back-up for them.”

The E-Board also approved \$9 million in funding for the Oregon State Hospital to remodel its Portland facility and expand its capacity, develop 71 additional forensic beds in secure community-based settings and hire additional staff within State Hospital forensic units.

At the end of the meeting, Senator Avel Gordly (D-Portland), presented the Speaker and Senate President with a sledgehammer inscribed with the words *Oregon State Hospital Repair Kit* in recognition of their support for funding improvements at the state hospital.

“This funding will help improve the safety of

patients and staff at State Hospital facilities while the state continues to work on a permanent solution to replace its oldest facilities,” said Speaker Minnis.

In addition, reacting to the Department of Human Services’ \$172 million budget shortfall, the E-Board directed the agency to achieve \$12 million in administrative savings and report back to the April E-Board with updated caseload and revenue forecasts and a plan to address the agency’s funding needs.

“Until we see an updated caseload forecast and additional information from DHS, it is premature to call for a special session,” said Speaker Minnis. “I expect that within the coming weeks we’ll be in a better position to assess how to address the shortfall and protect important human services programs.”

Reynolds H.S. Students Visit Speaker



On January 19, Speaker Minnis hosted 75 students from Reynolds’ High School’s Natural Resources Academy at the Capitol. The students are seen here with Speaker Minnis at the dais in the House Chamber.

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