

HB 2222 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Natural Resources

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Meeting Dates: 2/28

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) annually report to Legislative Assembly regarding implementation and enforcement status of Oregon Forestland-Urban Interface Fire Protection Act. Requires that the report include: general information on progress toward completion of fire protection system and measures taken to ensure minimal cost and risk and maximum effectiveness and efficiency; specific information regarding community protection plans; and information regarding ODF actions to develop, administer, and enforce fire protection system. Requires that report include any recommendations for further legislative action. Requires that report be made no later than June 15 each year. Requires that ODF make initial report prior to adjournment sine die of the 2019 regular session, or by first meeting of interim committees if Act becomes law after adjournment sine die. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

Fiscal: May have fiscal impact, no statement yet issued

Revenue: May have revenue impact, no statement yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Removes requirement that Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) report to Legislative Assembly prior to sine die of the 2019 session. Requires that ODF report to interim committee of the Legislative Assembly no later than September 15, 2019. Changes annual report regarding implementation and enforcement status of protection plans to annual report regarding implementation and enforcement status of property notifications and certifications. Changes community protection plan to community fire protection system.

Fiscal: May have fiscal impact, no statement yet issued

Revenue: May have revenue impact, no statement yet issued

BACKGROUND:

In 1997 the Oregon Legislative Assembly passed the Oregon Forestland-Urban Interface Fire Protection Act. The Act declares that the State Board of Forestry and State Forester were to lead the statewide coordination of a forestland-urban interface fire protection system to provide fire protection, encourage property owners to minimize and mitigate fire hazard, and promote and encourage interaction at all levels of government and the private sector (ORS 477.023). The Act directs the State Board of Forestry to establish criteria for identifying and classifying forest-land (ORS 277.027). The Act also allows counties to establish a five-person classification committee (ORS 277.029). The Act requires forestland property owners to reduce excess vegetation, which may fuel a fire around homes and other structures.

House Bill 2222 would require ODF annually report to the Legislative Assembly regarding the implementation and enforcement status of the Oregon Forestland-Urban Interface Fire Protection Act.