

SB 772 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 4/8, 4/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes Task Force on Forest Health Enhancement to design statewide program to develop and provide labor resources adequate to reduce forest fuel loads. conduct tree thinning, and provide training for forest industry employment. Directs Department of Forestry to provide staff support. Requires Task Force to report recommendations to interim legislative committee no later than September 15, 2020. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 Establishes Task Force on Forest Health Enhancement (Task Force). Specifies membership. Directs Governor to invite non-voting participants. Directs Task Force to develop recommendations for achieving forest health enhancement through a statewide program similar to federal 21st century Conservation Service Corps and designed to promote, facilitate, and encourage collaboration with organizations to reduce forest fuel levels and reduce barriers and provide incentives for public-private partnerships to reduce wildfire risk in forests. Directs Task Force to submit a report to the legislature in time for action in the 2020 regular session, and to make every effort to submit the report by the convening of that session. Directs Department of Forestry to provide staff support to Task Force Declares emergency, effective upon passage.

BACKGROUND:

Senate Bill 772 would create the Task Force on Forest Health Enhancement.