

SB 290 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Stark

House Committee On Judiciary

Action Date: 05/02/19

Action: Do Pass the A-Eng bill.

Vote: 8-0-3-0

Yeas: 8 - Bynum, Gorsek, Greenlick, McLane, Piluso, Power, Stark, Williamson

Exc: 3 - Barker, Lewis, Sprenger

Fiscal: No fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Channa Newell, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 4/30, 5/2

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Provides civil liability protection for injuries to person or property arising from person's voluntary efforts to fight wildfire. Defines wildfire as fire burning uncontrolled on private cropland, rangeland, or agricultural land. Specifies liability protection begins when person arrives at the fire scene or staging area and ends when person departs scene or area. Exempts members of volunteer fire department or fire district who have been trained in firefighting techniques from civil liability protection. Exempts operation of motor vehicle from civil liability protection.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Examples of neighbors helping with fire on cropland
- Provisions of measure

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In the 2018 fire season, the Oregon Department of Forestry reports that 1,055 wildfires in the state burned over 75,000 acres, with 219 fires caused by lightning and 836 caused by human activity. Responders to wildfires may include state employees, local firefighters, contracted wildfire crews, and local agencies.

Senate Bill 290 A extends civil liability protection for injuries to person or property that arise from an individual's voluntary efforts to fight wildfire on private cropland, pasture, or rangeland.