

**A-Engrossed**  
**Senate Bill 772**

Ordered by the Senate April 15  
Including Senate Amendments dated April 15

Sponsored by Senators GOLDEN, PROZANSKI, DEMBROW, Representative MARSH; Senators HANSELL, ROBLAN, TAYLOR, WAGNER, Representatives HELM, POWER, SCHOUTEN

**SUMMARY**

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure.

Establishes Task Force on Forest Health Enhancement to [*design program for carrying out*] **develop recommendations for** certain forest-related activities. Requires task force to **make every effort to report recommendations to** [*interim*] committee of Legislative Assembly related to natural resources [*no later than September 15, 2020*] **by date of convening of 2020 regular session of Legislative Assembly, or as soon as possible.**

Sunsets task force December 31, 2020.

[*Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.*]

**Declares emergency, effective on passage.**

**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

1  
2 Relating to a task force on forest health enhancement; and declaring an emergency.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1. (1) The Task Force on Forest Health Enhancement is established. Member-**  
5 **ship on the task force shall be as provided under subsections (2) to (5) of this section.**

6 **(2)(a) The chairperson of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission shall appoint**  
7 **one voting member as a representative of the commission.**

8 **(b) The executive director of the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board shall appoint**  
9 **one voting member as a representative of the board.**

10 **(c) The State Forester shall appoint one voting member as a representative of the State**  
11 **Forestry Department.**

12 **(d) The Executive Officer of the Commission on Indian Services shall appoint one voting**  
13 **member as a representative of the commission.**

14 **(e) The board of directors of the Association of Oregon Counties shall appoint one voting**  
15 **member as a representative of the association.**

16 **(f) The Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries shall appoint one voting**  
17 **member as a representative of the Bureau of Labor and Industries.**

18 **(g) The Governor shall appoint at least three and not more than five nonvoting members.**  
19 **The members appointed by the Governor shall be representatives of:**

20 **(A) Private timberland owners;**

21 **(B) The National Wildfire Suppression Association or another private firefighter associ-**  
22 **ation; and**

23 **(C) Nonprofit corporations that work in the fields of forestry, wildfire fuel reduction or**  
24 **youth workforce development related to forest health enhancement.**

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1       **(3) The President of the Senate shall appoint one nonvoting member from among the**  
2 **members of the Senate.**

3       **(4) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint one nonvoting member**  
4 **from among the members of the House of Representatives.**

5       **(5) The Governor shall invite the following to participate as nonvoting members of the**  
6 **task force:**

7           **(a) The members of the Oregon Congressional Delegation or their designees.**

8           **(b) The regional forester for the United States Forest Service Pacific Northwest Region**  
9 **or a designee of the regional forester.**

10          **(c) The Oregon-Washington State Director of the Bureau of Land Management or a**  
11 **designee of the state director.**

12       **(6) The task force shall develop recommendations for:**

13           **(a) Achieving forest health enhancement through a statewide program that is similar to**  
14 **the federal 21st Century Conservation Service Corps and that is designed to promote, facili-**  
15 **tate and encourage collaboration with organizations that:**

16               **(A) Reduce forest fuel levels;**

17               **(B) Conduct thinning of forest tree species in accordance with best practices for man-**  
18 **agement of forest health and wildfire mitigation; or**

19               **(C) Provide training for employment and youth educational opportunities in forestry and**  
20 **the forest products industry.**

21           **(b) Reducing barriers and providing incentives for public-private partnerships to reduce**  
22 **wildfire risk in forests.**

23       **(7) In developing recommendations under subsection (6) of this section, the task force**  
24 **shall review and consider the design of any similar programs in other states and of national**  
25 **programs.**

26       **(8) A majority of the voting members of the task force constitutes a quorum for the**  
27 **transaction of business.**

28       **(9) Official action by the task force requires the approval of a majority of the voting**  
29 **members of the task force.**

30           **(10) The task force shall elect one of its voting members to serve as chairperson.**

31           **(11) If there is a vacancy for any cause, the appointing authority shall make an appoint-**  
32 **ment to become immediately effective.**

33           **(12) The task force shall meet at times and places specified by the call of the chairperson**  
34 **or of a majority of the voting members of the task force.**

35           **(13) The task force may adopt rules necessary for the operation of the task force.**

36           **(14) The task force shall submit a report in the manner provided in ORS 192.245, and may**  
37 **include recommendations for legislation, to a committee of the Legislative Assembly related**  
38 **to natural resources. To preserve the possibility of legislative action in the 2020 regular**  
39 **session of the Legislative Assembly, the task force shall make every effort to submit the**  
40 **report by the date of convening of the 2020 regular session of the Legislative Assembly, or**  
41 **as soon as possible.**

42           **(15) The State Forestry Department shall provide staff support to the task force.**

43           **(16) Members of the task force are not entitled to compensation or reimbursement for**  
44 **expenses and serve as volunteers on the task force.**

45           **(17) All agencies of state government, as defined in ORS 174.111, are directed to assist**

1 **the task force in the performance of the duties of the task force and, to the extent permitted**  
2 **by laws relating to confidentiality, to furnish information and advice the members of the task**  
3 **force consider necessary to perform their duties.**

4 **SECTION 2. Section 1 of this 2019 Act is repealed on December 31, 2020.**

5 **SECTION 3. This 2019 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**  
6 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2019 Act takes effect**  
7 **on its passage.**

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