

HB 4054 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Natural Resources

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Meeting Dates: 2/6

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Amends the statutory location of fire notification to a forestland owner.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Requires the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) to oversee and coordinate the development and maintenance of a comprehensive statewide map of wildfire risk that is sufficiently detailed to allow assessment of wildfire risk at the property-ownership level. Requires DLCD to collaborate with specified entities for map development and maintenance, and to make the map accessible to the public in electronic form, free of charge. Requires DLCD to establish minimum standards for city and county wildfire risk reduction planning and zoning, and to provide along with ODF and the Oregon State Fire Marshal (OSFM) technical assistance and resources to cities and counties to implement and maintain wildfire risk planning and zoning, and to develop wildfire risk mitigation standards. Requires the Insurance Commissioner to order insurers to identify and provide incentives for policyholders to undertake wildfire risk reduction measures. Requires OSFM to establish minimum defensible space requirements. Requires local government to administer and enforce applicable OSFM defensible space requirements. Allows local government to adopt local defensible space requirements in excess of OSFM requirements. Requires local government to periodically report to the OSFM regarding compliance with defensible space requirements. Requires OSFM to maintain map of defensible space requirements and compliance. Requires OSFM to administer and enforce program to provide assistance to local governments for administration and enforcement of defensible space requirements. Establishes Wildfire Defensible Space Fund. Establishes creation of defensible space on lands of certain under-served populations as priority use of financial assistance. Requires DLCD to establish a program to assist counties and cities to adopt local building code provisions and local wildfire safety requirements that exceed state requirements. Creates the Local Wildfire Response Fund. Allows the Governor to assign duties to the Governor's Council (Council) on Wildfire Response including providing advice, suggesting priorities, recommending future actions, and providing coordination with federal agencies. Requires the Council to report recommendations for a sustainable wildfire funding model to the Legislative Assembly and Governor no later than October 31, 2020.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon Governor Kate Brown created the Governor's Council on Wildfire Response by executive order in January of 2019. The Council was tasked with reviewing Oregon's current model for wildfire prevention, preparedness, and response, and analyzing whether the current model is sustainable given increasing wildfire risks. The Council met regularly for nine months and formed three active subcommittees that focused on mitigation, fire suppression, and adaptation and recovery. The product of the Council's extensive work was a final report that concluded that some or all of the current models are not sufficient to ensure Oregon is prepared for increasingly severe wildfire seasons.

House Bill 4054 would amend the statutory location of fire notification to a forestland owner.

This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.