

SB 1512 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

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Meeting Dates: 2/11

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes state policy to identify lands acquired by State Board of Forestry (Board) that have limited revenue-generating potential or provide high-value recreational or conservation benefits. Expresses policy and authorizes Board to transfer identified lands to state or federal agencies, local governments, or Indian tribes, or retain lands under alternate management framework. Requires Board obtain approval from county where lands are located and from governing authority of proposed receiving entity prior to transferring lands. Requires Board provide county with identity of receiving entity. Requires Board provide independent third-party valuation of lands to county and receiving entity. Allows State Department of Forestry to use moneys available to department from any public or private source to facilitate land transfer. Exempts transfer process from select notice (ORS 270.100 and 270.130), disposition of property (ORS 270.110), and land price requirements (ORS 273.275). Exempts lands retained under alternate management framework from select revenue distribution requirements under ORS 530.110. Authorizes Board to adopt rules to carry out process.

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

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

No subsequent referral.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Constitution directs the State Land Board, made up of the Governor, Treasurer, and Secretary of State, to “manage lands under its jurisdiction with the object of obtaining the greatest benefit for the people of this state, consistent with the conservation of this resource under sound techniques of land management.” (Or. Const. art. VIII, sect. 5) In 2017, the Oregon Legislature authorized the State Land Board to identify and submit to the Legislative Assembly a list of state trust lands with limited performance potential as assets of the Common School Fund for transfer to another state or federal agency or tribe. (ORS 273.462 - 273.464)

The state of Washington has operated a state Trust Land Transfer Program since 1989. Under the program, the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) reviews and prioritizes a proposed list of transfer properties with other state agencies and then submits an informational package to the Board of Natural Resources and then the Governor's office for submittal to the Legislature. The Legislature reviews the proposal, identifies a list of properties to transfer, and sets a funding level. Some properties are set for fee ownership transfer, others for a long-term lease. The DNR is responsible for carrying out the transfers within the biennium. Properties may not be transferred if they do not meet value expectations or for other reasons not known at the time of transfer approval.

In 2019, Senate Bill 893 was introduced but not enacted. The bill would have authorized the State Board of Forestry to identify and transfer lands with limited revenue-generating potential, or those that provided high-value recreational or conservation benefits, to other governmental entities or tribes.

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Senate Bill 1512 would authorize the State Board of Forestry to identify lands that have limited revenue-generation potential or that provide high-value recreational or conservation benefits and transfer identified lands to another state or federal agency, local government, or tribe. The measure requires the Board to obtain approval from the county where lands are located and from the governing authority of proposed receiving entity prior to transferring lands.