

DRAFT

SUMMARY

Authorizes Oregon Department of Administrative Services to contract for independent economist to perform work related to wildfire protection and wildfire suppression cost and funding source information for lands protected by State Forestry Department. Provides for appointment of project team or technical advisory group to assist economist. Requires completion of work and report of findings and recommendations no later than November 30, 2020.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to an analysis of wildfire economics on lands protected by the State
3 Forestry Department; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 **SECTION 1. (1) The Oregon Department of Administrative Services**
6 **may enter into a contract for an independent economist to:**

7 **(a) Collect data and other information regarding:**

8 **(A) The actual costs of wildfire protection and wildfire suppression**
9 **on lands protected by the State Forestry Department; and**

10 **(B) The source of moneys used to pay costs of wildfire protection**
11 **and wildfire suppression on lands protected by the State Forestry De-**
12 **partment;**

13 **(b) Identify ways to improve tracking and substantiation for costs**
14 **and funding sources described in paragraph (a) of this subsection;**

15 **(c) Compare Oregon costs and funding sources for wildfire pro-**
16 **tection and wildfire suppression on lands protected by the State**
17 **Forestry Department with costs and funding sources for wildfire pro-**
18 **tection and wildfire suppression in comparable states;**

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 (d) Identify regional differences in costs and funding sources for
2 wildfire protection and wildfire suppression on lands protected by the
3 State Forestry Department; and

4 (e) Provide data and information described in paragraphs (a) to (d)
5 of this subsection in a format that will enable an informed discussion
6 regarding the equitable allocation of wildfire protection and wildfire
7 suppression costs on lands protected by the State Forestry Department
8 and regarding the value of that wildfire protection and wildfire sup-
9 pression toward the protection of private and public assets.

10 (2) The economist contracting with the Oregon Department of Ad-
11 ministrative Services under subsection (1) of this section shall perform
12 the work in collaboration with a project team or technical advisory
13 group convened and overseen by the department. The President of the
14 Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall jointly
15 appoint the project team or technical advisory group. The project team
16 or technical advisory group shall consist of:

17 (a) Not more than four members who are members of the Legisla-
18 tive Assembly; and

19 (b) The following, each of whom must have expertise regarding
20 costs and funding sources for wildfire protection and wildfire sup-
21 pression:

22 (A) One representative of the Legislative Fiscal Office;

23 (B) One representative of the Legislative Revenue Officer;

24 (C) One representative of the State Forestry Department;

25 (D) One representative of the Emergency Fire Cost Committee;

26 (E) One representative of the forest industry;

27 (F) One small woodland owner; and

28 (G) Two representatives of public interest groups.

29 (3) Members of the Legislative Assembly shall serve on the project
30 team or technical advisory group described in subsection (2) of this
31 section only in an advisory capacity.

1 **(4) The economist and the project team or technical advisory group**
2 **shall complete the work described in subsection (1) of this section and**
3 **report the resulting findings and recommendations to the Governor’s**
4 **Council on Wildfire Response and to an interim committee of the**
5 **Legislative Assembly relating to natural resources, in the manner**
6 **provided under ORS 192.245, no later than November 30, 2020.**

7 **SECTION 2.** **This 2020 Act being necessary for the immediate pres-**
8 **ervation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is de-**
9 **clared to exist, and this 2020 Act takes effect on its passage.**

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