

HB 2357 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources

Prepared By: Allison Daniel, LPRO Analyst

Sub-Referral To: House Committee On Revenue

Meeting Dates: 3/2

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs State Forestry Department, with other state agencies, to develop and apply sound forestry practices to promote forest health, incorporate regulation or monitoring of pesticide use in forests, employ adaptive resource management, and advance climate science or climate policy related to forest management. Directs State Board of Forestry to establish annual privilege tax rate on the harvest of all merchantable forest products harvested on forestlands at a rate not to exceed 75 cents per thousand board feet.

Establishes Sound Forestry Practices Subaccount under State Forestry Department Account. Credits revenue from privilege tax to State Forestry Department Account to be deposited in Sound Forestry Practices Subaccount. Repeals ORS 516.600 through 526.675 that establish Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI) and authorize OFRI to set privilege tax rate. Establishes that all moneys in Oregon Forest Resources Institute Fund left unexpended and unobligated on date of repeal shall revert to General Fund.

May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.

May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In 1991, the Oregon Legislature established the Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI) to enhance collaboration among forest agencies and individuals, improve public understanding of the state's forest resources, and encourage environmentally sound forest practices. OFRI is governed by a 13-member board of directors who establish the annual privilege tax rate. OFRI is funded by revenue from the privilege tax.

House Bill 2357 would repeal the Oregon Forest Resources Institute and Oregon Forest Resources Institute Fund; establish a Sound Forestry Practices Subaccount to the State Forestry Department Account; and transfer authorities related to setting a privilege tax rate to the Board of Forestry.