

**HB 3308 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Management**

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**Prepared By:** Cassie Passon, Counsel

**Meeting Dates:** 3/18

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Requires State Forestry Department to develop and maintain comprehensive statewide map of wildfire risk, including boundaries of wildland-urban interface within state. Requires map be made available electronically to the public. Requires State Fire Marshal to establish minimum defensible space requirements for wildfire risk reduction in areas defined as wildland-urban interface. Requires State Fire Marshal to consult and select standards from International Wildland-Urban Interface Code. Allows local governments to establish local requirements for defensible space on lands that are greater than the minimum defensible space requirements established by State Fire Marshal. Requires State Fire Marshal to administer a community risk reduction program. Establishes Wildfire Community Preparedness Fund and appropriates funds to State Fire Marshal. Establishes Task Force on Building Codes in the Wildland-Urban Interface. Directs task force to identify gaps in and needed updates to state building code regarding wildfire prevention and creation of defensible spaces. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

Oregon's 2020 fire season saw over 2000 fires with 1,221,324 acres burned which is close to double the 10-year average for acres burned. Four thousand twenty one homes were destroyed and 14 more damaged in 21 Labor Day fires alone. The fires caused 500,000 Oregonians to be under one of three evacuation levels, with 40,000 having to evacuate from their homes. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has approved close to \$96 million in disaster assistance to Oregonians.

House Bill 3308 directs the State Forestry Department to develop and maintain a comprehensive statewide map of wildfire risk, including the boundaries of wildland-urban interface within Oregon and that is accessible to the public electronically. The measure also requires the State Fire Marshal to establish minimum defensible space requirements to reduce the risk of wildfires in areas defined as the wildland-urban interface.