

HB 2722 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/23

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) Director, in consultation with counties and cities, to organize a **Land Use and Wildfire Policy Advisory Committee** (Committee). Requires specified groups to nominate potential Committee members, and requires the DLCD Director and State Forester to jointly appoint committee members from the submitted nominations. Specifies additional nonvoting members including legislators. Requires the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) and Oregon State University (OSU), in consultation with DLCD, to analyze the wildfire risk to people, public and private property, businesses, infrastructure, and natural resources, for each region of the state, and to report recommendations for regional wildfire risk reduction to the Committee by October 1, 2020. Requires the analysis be performed in consultation with specified local entities in each region. Requires the departments and Committee to analyze and evaluate that input in developing their recommendations on how to implement the Governor's Council on Wildfire Response land use recommendations, and to report to the Legislative Assembly by February 1, 2021. Specifies report requirements including, but not limited to: regional wildfire risk reduction recommendations; existing state and local maps that identify wildfire risk; new map resources to account for regional differences if deemed appropriate; identification of resources needed for mapping; recommendations on possible means for using the statewide planning program and local governments; planning goals related to natural hazards; existing state and local programs that minimize wildfire risk; revision recommendations to the statewide land use planning program and local building codes; funding, staffing, and other administrative resources needed; and a description of areas of agreement and disagreement among departments and Committee members. Authorizes the **Governor's Council on Wildfire Response** (Council) to continue through January 2, 2022. Allows the Governor to assign duties to the Council to oversee and assist in the implementation of the Act, including providing advice, suggesting priorities, recommending future actions, and providing coordination with federal agencies. Directs the Council to develop a sustainable model for funding a comprehensive wildfire strategy that is consistent with the 2019 Council report and recommendations. Requires that the Council report to the Governor and Legislative Assembly by October 31, 2020. Requires the **Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) to commission a study** to determine whether renewable energy generation is a feasible means for disposing of materials from wildfire fuel load reduction projects. Requires ODOE to award a contract for the study no later than August 31, 2020 for a maximum of \$500,000. Requires the entity that receives the contract to have specified expertise and to complete the study by January 15, 2021. Requires ODOE to appoint an advisory committee by July 31, 2020 to provide advice to the entity conducting the study, and to act as a reviewing body for the study results. Establishes advisory committee membership and processes. **Appropriates** the following General Fund moneys for the biennium ending June 30, 2021: \$350,000 to DLCD, \$100,000 to ODF, \$50,000 to OSU, and \$61,900 to ODOE. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

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:

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

No amendment.

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. The report proposed 37 recommendations; House Bill 2722 is related to recommendations 3, 4, 34, and 37.

House Bill 2722 would require the Oregon Department of Forestry and Oregon State University to analyze regional wildfire risk, and would require the Department of Land Conservation and Development to organize a Land Use and Wildfire Policy Advisory Committee that is tasked with analyzing and reporting on mapping needs and recommendations for using the statewide land use planning program, local governments, and building codes to minimize wildfire risk. The measure would also direct the Governor's Council on Wildfire Response to develop a sustainable model for comprehensive wildfire strategy funding, and direct the Oregon Department of Energy to commission a study to determine whether renewable energy generation is a feasible means for disposing of materials from wildfire fuel load reduction projects.