HB 3308 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Management

Prepared By:Cassie Passon, CounselMeeting Dates:3/18, 4/13

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.

REVENUE: No revenue impact FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Impacts of 2020 fires
- Cost of program
- Federal land management
- Wildfire-urban interface
- Cost of 2020 fire defense
- Minimum standard for entire state
- Defensible space
- Air quality during fires

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The International Wildland-Urban Interface Code is a model code, created by the International Code Council (ICC), which aims to provide jurisdictions with guidance on fire and building codes for areas where expanding urban areas meet with undeveloped areas. ICC provides the global community model codes and standards, as solutions for safe communities and buildings.

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) is the state agency that manages Oregon's forests. ODF aims to protect Oregon's forests by promoting stewardship and investing in their environmental and economic sustainability.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) is located within the Office of the State Police. OSFM was established in 1917 and its current mission is to protect Oregonians and their property, as well as the environment from both hazardous materials and fires.

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.