

SB 762 B -B17 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Special Committee On SB 762

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Meeting Dates: 6/24

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Contains numerous wildfire prevention and mitigation provisions.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-B17 Removes the stated definition of "wildland-urban interface" (WUI). Requires the State Board of Forestry (Board) to adopt by rule the definition of WUI to be used in specified sections of the measure within 100 days following the effective date of the 2021 Act. Requires the Board to consider national best practices in the establishment of the definition and the criteria by which the WUI must be identified and classified. Provides that the criteria established by the Board may not exclude a category of land from inclusion in the wildland-urban interface.

REVENUE: No revenue impact.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.

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. During the 2020 legislative session, the Governor advanced Senate Bill 1536 as the omnibus package that most comprehensively addressed the needs outlined in the final report of the Council, and additional wildfire concepts were proposed by various legislators and committees.