

House Bill 3240

Sponsored by Representatives STARK, CLEM

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Requires Department of Consumer and Business Services to map wildfire risk and to develop appropriate fire protection standards within state building code for residential structures based on fire risk identified in maps. Requires department and Oregon State University College of Forestry to report to interim committee of Legislative Assembly on updates to maps and state building code not later than September 15, 2021.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to fire mapping for construction of structures; and declaring an emergency.

3 Whereas fire hardening for residential structures can play an important role in preventing loss
4 of life and property; and

5 Whereas the application of fire-hardening standards should be based on research-based mapping
6 that is electronically available to the public; and

7 Whereas the state building code is the appropriate location for fire-hardening standards; and

8 Whereas building code standards in this state should be predictable and consistently applied;
9 and

10 Whereas builders and purchasers of homes need to know which project-specific fire-hardening
11 standard applies in each risk category before beginning the design and development process; and

12 Whereas for the purposes of fire hardening residential structures in this state, the Department
13 of Consumer and Business Services in partnership with Oregon State University should be required
14 to establish and maintain statewide maps identifying categories of wildfire risk to enable protection
15 of life and property in areas of this state that are prone to wildfire; now, therefore,

16 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

17 **SECTION 1. Section 2 of this 2021 Act is added to and made a part of ORS chapter 455.**

18 **SECTION 2. (1) The Department of Consumer and Business Services shall develop and**
19 **maintain statewide maps identifying categories of wildfire risk for the purpose of applying**
20 **appropriate construction standards to reduce and mitigate the risk of destructive fires in and**
21 **around residential structures.**

22 **(2) In developing and maintaining the maps required under subsection (1) of this section,**
23 **the department shall engage the Oregon State University College of Forestry and affected**
24 **local governments and shall make the maps available in an appropriate electronic format**
25 **that is accessible at little or no expense to the public. The department may enter into an**
26 **agreement with the university or with a local government under ORS 190.110 for any services**
27 **required to develop and maintain the maps described in this section.**

28 **(3) The department shall update the state building code to require appropriate fire pro-**
29 **tection standards for residential structures, based on the fire risk identified in the maps the**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 department develops and maintains under this section. The code must contain separate and
2 appropriate fire protection standards for at least three levels of risk.

3 **SECTION 3.** Not later than September 15, 2021, the Department of Consumer and Busi-
4 ness Services and the Oregon State University College of Forestry shall report to an appro-
5 priate interim committee of the Legislative Assembly in the manner provided under ORS
6 192.245 concerning progress on developing and maintaining the maps and updates to the state
7 building code required under section 2 of this 2021 Act.

8 **SECTION 4.** This 2021 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
9 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2021 Act takes effect
10 on its passage.

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