

## **SB 752 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

### **Senate Committee On Natural Resources**

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**Prepared By:** Laura Kentnesse, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 2/20

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#### **WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Directs the Department of Environmental Quality to notify the Attorney General if air quality index readings have reached 250 or higher during seven consecutive days and the cause of the elevated readings is reasonably believed to be smoke from wildfire that originated on federal lands. Requires the Attorney General, upon receiving notice, to investigate the cause of the wildfire. Requires the Attorney General to bring civil action if they determine that the wildfire was caused by negligent or unlawful forest management practices.

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

*REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued*

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

#### **EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

The U.S. Air Quality Index (AQI) is an index with values from 0 to 500 that reflects the level of outdoor air pollution along with associated health effects. The higher the AQI value, the greater the level of air pollution. The AQI is divided into six categories: good (1 - 50), moderate (51 - 100), unhealthy for sensitive groups (101 - 150), unhealthy (151 - 200), very unhealthy (201 - 300), and hazardous (301 - 500).

According to the 2022 Wildfire Smoke Trends and the Air Quality Index Report issued by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, the number of unhealthy air quality days caused by wildfire smoke are increasing in Oregon. For example, Klamath Falls had 20 'unhealthy' days and two 'very unhealthy' days caused by wildfire smoke between 1987 and 2014, but between 2015 and 2020 Klamath Falls experienced 37 'unhealthy' and five 'very unhealthy' days as well as its first 'hazardous' day.

Senate Bill 752 would direct the Department of Environmental Quality to notify the Attorney General if air quality index readings have reached 250 or higher during seven consecutive days and the cause of the elevated readings is reasonably believed to be smoke from wildfire that originated on federal lands. The measure would also require the Attorney General, upon receiving notice, to investigate the cause of the wildfire and to bring civil action if they determine that the wildfire was caused by negligent or unlawful forest management practices.