HB 3590 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

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Sub-Referral To:	Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Meeting Dates:	3/27, 3/29

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs College of Forestry at Oregon State University (OSU), in collaboration with Department of Environmental Quality and Oregon Department Forestry, to research development of fuel pathways for low-carbon fuels derived from woody biomass residues from forestry operations. Establishes research and reporting requirements for College of Forestry. Requires College of Forestry to submit research findings no later than July 31, 2025, to interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to natural resources. Appropriates $3,000,000 from the General Fund to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission for distribution to the College of Forestry at OSU to carry out research and reporting requirements. Authorizes State Forester to establish forestry renewable woody biomass conversion program. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Biomass is a renewable or recurring organic matter that can be used to produce biofuels, which are processed, ready-to-use energy sources such as liquid, gaseous, or solid fuels. Biofuel is most commonly produced through combustion (burning) of biomass in a process similar to production of coal or natural gas–based electricity. Biomass conversion facilities can also be used to convert forest biomass—or woody biomass—into energy through biochemical and thermochemical processes. Many factors must be considered, such as harvest, collection, transportation, pre-processing, and conversion processing methods to procure biomass and produce biofuel, before a biofuel can be considered a low-carbon fuel.

House Bill 3590 would direct the College of Forestry at Oregon State University, in collaboration with the Department of Environmental Quality and the Oregon Department of Forestry, to research and report on the development of fuel pathways for low-carbon fuels derived from woody biomass residues from forestry operations.