

SB 1068 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Hudson

House Committee On Revenue**Action Date:** 05/16/23**Action:** Do Pass.**Vote:** 5-1-1-0**Yeas:** 5 - Levy B, Marsh, Nathanson, Nguyen D, Walters**Nays:** 1 - Reschke**Exc:** 1 - Smith G**Fiscal:** No fiscal impact**Revenue:** Revenue impact issued**Prepared By:** Beau Olen, Economist**Meeting Dates:** 5/4, 5/16**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Authorizes board of directors of rural fire protection district to annex to district, under certain circumstances, lands within coverage area of district. Prior to annexation, district must identify district coverage area. Takes effect 91st day after sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Oregon Revised Statute chapter 478
- Islands of untaxed land and untaxed border property
- Lack of technology to identify untaxed land timely
- Pay as you go funding method for an emergency service
- Whether statewide issue
- Whether incentive to build on untaxed land
- 7 mile fire protection area for insurance purposes
- House Bill 2522 (2023 Legislative Session)
- Fee schedule for fire protection services on untaxed land
- Rural fire protection district (RFPD) elected board members
- Structural fire protection

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Senate Bill 1068 defines “coverage area” as an area established by an RFPD that consists of: (A) lands that are included in the district; and (B) some or all of the lands that are within seven road miles of a fire station in the district and are not included in any other district.

Per ORS 478.010, an RFPD may not include territory within a city, water supply district, forestlands in a forest protection district, railway rights of way, and ocean shores.

A similar bill passed the Senate in 2021 (Senate Bill 605-A) and 2022 (Senate Bill 1582-A).

According to the Department of Revenue’s Oregon Property Tax Statistics report supplement, there are 260 fire districts in Oregon, including 241 that are labeled as RFPDs. Douglas County has 25 fire districts, 23 of which are labeled as RFPDs, both more than any other county. Out of 36 counties, 34 have an RFPD. Crook County is the only county with a fire district that does not have at least 1 labeled as an RFPD.