

House Bill 2986

Sponsored by Representatives MARSH, OWENS, Senators DEMBROW, GOLDEN; Senator FREDERICK (Pre-session filed.)

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**.

Directs State Forestry Department to establish by rule Prescribed Fire Capacity Grant Program.
Establishes Prescribed Fire Capacity Fund in State Treasury, separate and distinct from General Fund, to fund program.
Appropriates moneys to department out of General Fund for deposit into Prescribed Fire Capacity Fund.
Sunsets January 2, 2029.
Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to prescribed fires; and declaring an emergency.

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

4 **SECTION 1. (1) The State Forestry Department shall establish by rule a Prescribed Fire**
5 **Capacity Grant Program to:**

6 (a) **Increase the pace and scale of the use of prescribed fire and cultural burning.**

7 (b) **Reduce barriers for conducting prescribed fires and cultural burning.**

8 (2) **Under the program the department may award grants that:**

9 (a) **Support workforce development.**

10 (b) **Add capacity to conduct prescribed fires.**

11 (c) **Assist local governments and nongovernmental organizations with funding equipment**
12 **and personnel that are needed for conducting prescribed fires.**

13 (3) **To implement the program, the department:**

14 (a) **May publish a notice that describes eligibility for the grants.**

15 (b) **Shall collaborate with other relevant state agencies, cultural fire practitioners, the**
16 **Oregon Prescribed Fire Council and Certified Burn Managers, as defined in ORS 526.005, to**
17 **establish guidelines governing the program and requirements for grantee reporting and im-**
18 **plementation of grant-funded projects.**

19 **SECTION 2. The Prescribed Fire Capacity Fund is established in the State Treasury,**
20 **separate and distinct from the General Fund. Interest earned by the Prescribed Fire Capacity**
21 **Fund shall be credited to the fund. Moneys in the fund are continuously appropriated to the**
22 **State Forestry Department for the purposes described in section 1 of this 2023 Act.**

23 **SECTION 3. (1) Sections 1 and 2 of this 2023 Act are repealed on January 2, 2029.**

24 (2) **Any moneys remaining in the Prescribed Fire Capacity Fund that are unexpended and**
25 **unobligated on the date specified in subsection (1) of this section shall revert to the General**
26 **Fund.**

27 **SECTION 4. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-**
28 **ated to the State Forestry Department, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, out of 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 **General Fund, the amount of \$5,000,000, for deposit into the Prescribed Fire Capacity Fund**
2 **established by section 2 of this 2023 Act.**

3 **SECTION 5. This 2023 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**
4 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2023 Act takes effect**
5 **on its passage.**

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