

Senate Bill 440

Sponsored by Senator HAYDEN (Presession 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 Department of Transportation to establish intensive planting pilot program to plant trees and vegetation in highway right of way for purpose of sequestering carbon.
Sunsets January 2, 2026.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to highways.

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

4 **SECTION 1. (1) The Department of Transportation shall establish an intensive planting**
5 **pilot program aimed toward planting trees and vegetation in the highway right of way under**
6 **the jurisdiction of the department.**

7 **(2) Selection of appropriate trees and vegetation for planting shall be made in consulta-**
8 **tion with the State Forester.**

9 **(3) In selecting species of trees and vegetation the department and State Forester must**
10 **focus on maximizing carbon sequestration and net greenhouse gas emissions reductions.**

11 **(4) The department shall identify a minimum of 500 highway miles, under the**
12 **department's jurisdiction, along which is suitable for planting trees and other vegetation.**

13 **(5) The department shall take the actions required under subsections (1) to (4) of this**
14 **section before January 1, 2026.**

15 **(6) The department shall submit a report. The report must include, but is not limited to**
16 **the following information:**

17 **(a) The number and variety of species planted;**

18 **(b) The estimated amount of carbon sequestered; and**

19 **(c) Any recommendations for expanding the program at the state and local level.**

20 **(7) The report shall be submitted in the manner provided by ORS 192.245, and may include**
21 **recommendations for legislation, to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly re-**
22 **lated to transportation no later than September 15, 2025.**

23 **(8) The department may adopt rules to carry out the provisions of this section.**

24 **SECTION 2. Section 1 of this 2023 Act is repealed on January 2, 2026.**
25

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.