

HB 3944 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Action Date: 04/08/25

Action: Without recommendation as to passage and be referred to Rules.

Vote: 10-2-0-0

Yeas: 10 - Andersen, Edwards, Helm, Levy B, Levy E, Lively, Marsh, Neron, Owens, Wallan

Nays: 2 - Gamba, Osborne

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: Revenue impact issued

Prepared By: Erin Pischke, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 4/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure repeals provisions related to building code standards for wildfire hazard mitigation, defensible space requirements, fire protection for lands outside forest protection districts and the wildfire hazard map; makes changes related to defensible space; makes changes related to the wildland-urban interface; and declares an emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions of measure

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In 2021, the Oregon Legislative Assembly passed Senate Bill 762, a comprehensive wildfire law aimed at creating fire-adapted communities, improving landscape resiliency, and enhancing wildfire response. The measure directed the Department of Forestry, in partnership with Oregon State University, to create a statewide wildfire risk map that included wildland-urban interface boundaries, categorizing properties into wildfire risk classes (extreme, high, moderate, low, and no risk). It also required the State Fire Marshal to establish defensible space standards based on the map and the International Wildland-Urban Interface Code and for the Department of Consumer and Business Services to adopt building code standards (R327) for new construction in high-risk areas.