

SB 1051 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**Carrier:** Sen. Jama**Senate Committee On Rules****Action Date:** 06/11/25**Action:** Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)**Vote:** 5-0-0-0**Yeas:** 5 - Bonham, Golden, Jama, Manning Jr, Thatcher**Fiscal:** Has minimal fiscal impact**Revenue:** No revenue impact**Prepared By:** Leslie Porter, LPRO Analyst**Meeting Dates:** 3/24, 6/11**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

The measure changes the appointment authority of the State Forester from the State Board of Forestry to the Governor. It establishes that the State Forester shall serve a four-year term and be eligible for reappointment. It requires the State Forester to have organizational management experience, and either executive experience and expertise overseeing forest and wildfire management on western forestlands, or operational experience and expertise overseeing the same. It declares an emergency and is effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions and intent of the measure
- The current recruitment process for the State Forester
- The history and dynamics of the State Board of Forestry
- Potential unintended consequences of making this position a Governor's appointment

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

The amendment establishes that the State Forester shall serve a four-year term and be eligible for reappointment. It requires the State Forester to have organizational management experience, and either executive experience and expertise overseeing forest and wildfire management on western forestlands, or operational experience and expertise overseeing the same. It also adds an emergency clause and makes the measure effective on passage.

BACKGROUND:**State Forestry Department**

The State Forestry Department consists of the State Forester, the Deputy State Forester (Deputy), Assistant State Foresters (Assistants), and other employees, acting under direction of the State Board of Forestry.

State Board of Forestry

The State Board of Forestry (Board) has seven individuals, including at least one from each of the state's three forest regions (Eastern, Northwest, and Southwest). No more than three members may derive a significant portion of their income from persons or organizations subject to regulation under the Oregon Forest Practices Act, and no member may have any relationship or pecuniary interest that would interfere with their representing the public interest. Members serve four-year terms, limited to two full consecutive terms. The Governor designates the chair.

State Forester

The Board appoints the State Forester, who must be a practical forester familiar with western conditions and experienced in the organization for the prevention of forest fires. The State Forester shall be the chief executive officer of the State Forestry Department. The State Forester shall hold office at the pleasure of the Board and shall act as its secretary. The Board also fixes the compensation of the State Forester.

SB 1051 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

The State Forester may appoint a Deputy, Assistants, and other employees of the State Forestry Department, with Board approval. During the State Forester's absence or disability, all authority shall be exercised by the Deputy, or by the Assistants whom the State Forester or the Board has designated as Acting State Forester.

Executive Appointments

The Governor appoints individuals to serve on over 250 boards and commissions, and 117 of them require Senate confirmation, which are specified in Oregon Revised Statutes. The appointments requiring Senate confirmation are referred to as "executive appointments" (EAs). The EA process has three parts:

- The Governor submits the EA nominations to the Secretary of the Senate, who transmits them to the Senate Committee on Rules.
- The Senate Committee on Rules holds hearings to consider the nominations and votes on whether the nominations should move to the full Senate for confirmation.
- The Senate holds a floor session to consider the nominations that are voted out of committee and then votes on whether to confirm.