

SB 1051 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**Carrier:** Rep. Helm**House Committee On Rules****Action Date:** 06/23/25**Action:** Do Pass the A-Eng bill.**Vote:** 4-0-3-0**Yeas:** 4 - Bowman, Kropf, Pham H, Valderrama**Exc:** 3 - Boshart Davis, Drazan, Elmer**Fiscal:** Has minimal fiscal impact**Revenue:** No revenue impact**Prepared By:** Melissa Leoni, LPRO Analyst**Meeting Dates:** 6/19, 6/23**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, is eligible for reappointment, and receives a salary set by law, or as prescribed by the Governor if not provided by law. It requires the State Forester to have organizational management experience, and executive or operational experience and expertise overseeing forest and wildfire management on western forestlands. It declares an emergency and is effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- When it is appropriate for the Governor or a board or commission to appoint an agency director
- Supervision of agency directors regardless of appointment process
- Accountability of the Governor

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

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 the 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 is the chief executive officer of the State Forestry Department, holds the office at the pleasure of the Board, and acts as its secretary. The Board also fixes the compensation of the State Forester.

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

SB 1051 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

by the Assistants whom the State Forester or the Board has designated as Acting State Forester.