

A-Engrossed
House Bill 3349

Ordered by the House April 4
Including House Amendments dated April 4

Sponsored by Representative OWENS; Representatives BREESE-IVERSON, GRAYBER, LEVY B, MCINTIRE, RESCHKE, SMITH G (at the request of former Senator Lynn Findley)

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. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: The Act allows an agency to take certain actions related to items used for fighting fires. The Act makes changes related to groups that fight fires in certain rural areas. The Act creates a new fund for providing moneys and items to groups. (Flesch Readability Score: 70.8).

Authorizes the State Forestry Department to take certain actions related to motor vehicles and other equipment used by the department.

Instructs and authorizes the department to take certain actions related to rangeland protection associations.

Establishes the Rangeland Protection Association Fund.

Makes certain changes related to the authority of the State Forester to assist rangeland protection associations.

Authorizes the State Forester and forest protection associations to acquire or dispose of goods, services or equipment for the prevention, mitigation or suppression of fire on forestland.

Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to fire protection; creating new provisions; amending ORS 477.317 and 477.406; and de-
3 claring an emergency.

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

5 **SECTION 1. Sections 2 to 4 of this 2025 Act are added to and made a part of ORS 477.315**
6 **to 477.325.**

7 **SECTION 2. Notwithstanding ORS 283.310 and 283.315, the State Forestry Department**
8 **may:**

9 (1) **Control and regulate the disposal of and access to motor vehicles, and other equip-**
10 **ment, that are used by the department.**

11 (2) **Authorize the State Forester to transfer ownership of depreciated firefighting vehicles**
12 **and related depreciated equipment and supplies, by sale or donation, to a rangeland pro-**
13 **tection association upon terms that are mutually agreed to by the forester and the rangeland**
14 **protection association.**

15 **SECTION 3. The State Forestry Department:**

16 (1) **May provide funding to rangeland protection associations for firefighting and**
17 **rangeland fire readiness.**

18 (2) **Shall assist rangeland protection associations with pursuing federal grant funding for**
19 **volunteers to assist with firefighting and for rural fire readiness.**

20 **SECTION 4. (1) The Rangeland Protection Association Fund is established in the State**

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 **Treasury, separate and distinct from the General Fund.**

2 (2) **The Rangeland Protection Association Fund consists of moneys appropriated by the**
3 **Legislative Assembly for deposit in the fund and other moneys appropriated, allocated, de-**
4 **posited or transferred to the fund by the Legislative Assembly or otherwise.**

5 (3) **Moneys in the fund are continuously appropriated to the department for purposes**
6 **described in sections 2 (2) and 3 of this 2025 Act.**

7 **SECTION 5.** ORS 477.317 is amended to read:

8 477.317. (1) The forester may enter into cooperative agreements or contracts with a rangeland
9 protection association under the provisions of ORS 477.320 for the purpose of providing the assist-
10 ance [*specified in subsection (2)*] **described in subsections (2) and (3)** of this section.

11 (2) The forester may assist **a rangeland protection association** with:

12 (a) Organizing [*a*] **the rangeland protection association**[,].

13 (b) Training [*association*] members **of the rangeland protection association** [*and*].

14 (c) **Acquiring or maintaining firefighting vehicles, supplies and other** equipment for the
15 **rangeland protection association, including as described in ORS 477.406 and section 2 of this**
16 **2025 Act.**

17 (d) [*The forester may also assist a rangeland protection association with*] Payment for liability
18 insurance and other administrative expenses of the **rangeland protection** association.

19 (3) [*The insurance and administrative expense assistance*] **A payment described in subsection**
20 **(2)(d) of this section** may not:

21 (a) Exceed 50 percent of the total of budgeted operating costs and the cash equivalent of in-kind
22 supplies and services of the **rangeland protection** association in any fiscal year.

23 (b) [*The costs of assistance specified in this subsection may not*] Be paid from funds assessed from
24 forestland owners under ORS 477.230.

25 **SECTION 6.** ORS 477.406 is amended to read:

26 477.406. (1) **For the prevention, mitigation and suppression of fire on forestland or on land**
27 **other than forestland, or both,** the forester and a forest protective association may:

28 (a) **Jointly or separately purchase and dispose of, or contract for, goods, services, sup-**
29 **plies, equipment or motor vehicles.**

30 (b) Enter into a contract or agreement with each other or, jointly or separately, with a federal
31 or state agency, political subdivision, corporation, responsible organization or responsible landowner
32 or group of landowners [*for the prevention and suppression of fire on forestland or on land other than*
33 *forestland, or both, to prevent and suppress fire*].

34 (2) Contracts and agreements under subsection (1) of this section, and all renewals and revisions
35 thereof, must be negotiated in accordance with procedures specified by rules of the State Board of
36 Forestry.

37 (3) The forester and a forest protective association may enter into a contract or agreement for
38 the accomplishment of forestry related activities.

39 (4) Contracts and agreements between the forester and a forest protective association under
40 subsections (1) and (2) of this section may include the purchase from the forester of supplies and
41 equipment, **whether new or depreciated, that is** needed to provide and support fire protection
42 services.

43 **SECTION 7.** **This 2025 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**
44 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2025 Act takes effect**
45 **on its passage.**

