

House Bill 3349

Sponsored by Representative OWENS; Representatives BREESE-IVERSON, LEVY B, MCINTIRE, 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 **as introduced**. 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.

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, the State Forestry Department may:**

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

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

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

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

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

19 **SECTION 4. (1) The Rangeland Protection Association Fund is established in the State**
20 **Treasury, separate and distinct from the General Fund.**

21 (2) **The Rangeland Protection Association Fund consists of moneys appropriated by the**
22 **Legislative Assembly for deposit in the fund, grant funds received by the State Forestry**
23 **Department and other moneys appropriated, allocated, deposited or transferred to the fund**
24 **by the Legislative Assembly or otherwise.**

25 (3) **Moneys in the fund are continuously appropriated to the department for purposes**

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 **described in sections 2 (2) and 3 of this 2025 Act.**

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

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

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

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

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

9 (c) Acquiring **or maintaining** firefighting **vehicles, supplies and other** equipment for the
10 **rangeland protection** association, **including as described in ORS 477.406 and section 2 of this**
11 **2025 Act.**

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

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

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

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

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

21 477.406. (1) The forester and a forest protective association may enter into a contract or
22 agreement with each other or, jointly or separately, with a federal or state agency, political subdivi-
23 sion, corporation, responsible organization or responsible landowner or group of landowners for
24 the prevention and suppression of fire on forestland or on land other than forestland, or both, to
25 prevent and suppress fire.

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

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

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

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

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