

## Enrolled Senate Bill 1051

Sponsored by Senator JAMA (at the request of Governor Tina Kotek)

CHAPTER .....

### AN ACT

Relating to the State Forester; amending ORS 526.031; and declaring an emergency.

#### Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

**SECTION 1.** ORS 526.031 is amended to read:

526.031. *[(1) The State Board of Forestry shall appoint a State Forester, who must be a practical forester familiar with western conditions and experienced in organization for the prevention of forest fires. The forester shall be the chief executive officer of the State Forestry Department. The forester shall hold office at the pleasure of the board, and shall act as its secretary.]*

**(1) The Governor shall appoint a State Forester subject to Senate confirmation under ORS 171.562 and 171.565. The forester shall be the chief executive officer of the State Forestry Department and shall act as the secretary of the State Board of Forestry. The forester shall serve a term of four years at the pleasure of the Governor and shall be eligible for reappointment.**

**(2)(a)** With the approval of the board and subject to applicable provisions of the State Personnel Relations Law, the State Forester may appoint a Deputy State Forester, assistant state foresters and other employees of the department.

**(b) The State Forester must have organizational management experience and either of the following:**

**(A) Executive experience and expertise overseeing forest and wildfire management on western forestlands; or**

**(B) Operational experience and expertise overseeing forest and wildfire management on western forestlands.**

**(c)** During the State Forester's absence or disability, all authority shall be exercised by the Deputy State Forester *[or by the assistant whom the State Forester or the board, by written order filed with the Secretary of State, has designated as Acting State Forester]*.

**[(3) The board shall fix the compensation of the State Forester. In addition to their salaries, the forester, the deputy and assistants shall be reimbursed, subject to the limitations otherwise provided by law, for their actual and necessary travel and other expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.]**

**(3)(a) The State Forester shall receive a salary as provided by law or, if not so provided, as prescribed by the Governor.**

**(b) In addition to salary, but subject to any applicable law regulating travel and other expenses of state officers and employees, the State Forester, the Deputy State Forester and assistant state foresters shall be reimbursed for actual and necessary travel and other ex-**

penses incurred by the State Forester, the Deputy State Forester and assistant state foresters in the performance of official duties.

**SECTION 2.** This 2025 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2025 Act takes effect on its passage.

**Passed by Senate June 18, 2025**

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Obadiah Rutledge, Secretary of Senate

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Rob Wagner, President of Senate

**Passed by House June 26, 2025**

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Julie Fahey, Speaker of House

**Received by Governor:**

.....M.,....., 2025

**Approved:**

.....M.,....., 2025

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Tina Kotek, Governor

**Filed in Office of Secretary of State:**

.....M.,....., 2025

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Tobias Read, Secretary of State