

A-Engrossed
Senate Bill 1051

Ordered by the Senate June 16
Including Senate Amendments dated June 16

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

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 gives the Governor the power to appoint a State Forester. (Flesch Readability Score: 67.7).

Transfers the authority to appoint a State Forester from the State Board of Forestry to the Governor, subject to Senate confirmation.

Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR 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

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 forester, the deputy and assistants shall be reimbursed, subject to the limitations otherwise provided
2 by law, for their actual and necessary travel and other expenses incurred in the performance of their
3 duties.]

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

6 **(b) In addition to salary, but subject to any applicable law regulating travel and other**
7 **expenses of state officers and employees, the State Forester, the Deputy State Forester and**
8 **assistant state foresters shall be reimbursed for actual and necessary travel and other ex-**
9 **periences incurred by the State Forester, the Deputy State Forester and assistant state**
10 **foresters in the performance of official duties.**

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

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