

Senate Bill 344

Sponsored by Senator SMITH DB (Presession filed.)

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: This Act tells the Attorney General to sue the U.S. government if some wildfires that cause bad air quality start on U.S. land. (Flesch Readability Score: 65.7).

Directs the Department of Environmental Quality to notify the Attorney General if the air quality index readings for an area of the state reach 250 or higher during seven consecutive days and the cause is believed to be a wildfire originating on lands owned by the United States.

Directs the Attorney General to investigate and bring a civil action if the wildfire was caused by negligent or unlawful forest management practices.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to wildfire.

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

4 **SECTION 1. (1) The Department of Environmental Quality shall notify the Attorney**
5 **General if:**

6 **(a) The department determines that air quality index readings for an area of this state**
7 **have reached 250 or higher during seven consecutive days; and**

8 **(b) The cause of the elevated air quality index readings is reasonably believed to be**
9 **wildfire smoke from a wildfire that originated on lands owned by the United States.**

10 **(2) Upon receiving notice under subsection (1) of this section, the Attorney General shall**
11 **investigate the cause of the wildfire. If the Attorney General determines that the wildfire**
12 **was caused, in whole or in part, by forest management practices of the United States carried**
13 **out in a negligent or otherwise unlawful manner, the Attorney General shall bring an ap-**
14 **propriate civil action in the name of the State of Oregon to secure an injunction, damages**
15 **or other appropriate relief.**

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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.