

Senate Bill 954

Sponsored by Senator SMITH DB

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 increases the penalties for causing fires. (Flesch Readability Score: 61.2).

Increases the penalties for unlawfully causing fires. Punishes a first violation by a maximum of 30 days' imprisonment, a \$1,250 fine, or both. Punishes a second violation by a maximum of six months' imprisonment, a \$2,500 fine, or both. Punishes a third violation, or a first violation that proximately causes human injury, loss of human life or property damage of \$10,000 or more, by a maximum of 364 days' imprisonment, a \$6,250 fine, or both.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to penalties for causing fires; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 477.993.

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

4 **SECTION 1.** ORS 477.993 is amended to read:

5 477.993. (1) Violation of any of the provisions of ORS 477.510, 477.515, 477.535 to 477.550, 477.565,
6 477.615, 477.625, 477.635 to 477.670[,] **or** 477.695[, 477.710, 477.720 *or* 477.740], or any rule or order
7 adopted pursuant thereto, is a violation punishable as follows:

8 (a) For the first offense, as a Class D violation.

9 (b) For the second offense, as a Class C violation.

10 (c) For the third offense, as a Class A violation.

11 **(2) Violation of any of the provisions of ORS 477.710, 477.720 *or* 477.740, or any rule or**
12 **order adopted pursuant thereto, is a violation punishable as follows:**

13 **(a) For the first offense, as a Class C misdemeanor.**

14 **(b) For the second offense, as a Class B misdemeanor.**

15 **(c) For the third offense, as a Class A misdemeanor.**

16 [(2)] **(3) Multiple violations of any single requirement of this chapter, or of any rule or order**
17 **adopted pursuant thereto, in an operation area shall be considered a single violation. However, each**
18 **day a violation continues shall be considered a separate violation.**

19 [(3)] **(4) Notwithstanding [subsection (1)] subsections (1) and (2) of this section, violations of**
20 **any of the statutes listed in [subsection (1)] subsection (1) or (2) of this section which proximately**
21 **cause human injury, loss of human life or property damage of \$10,000 or more, and unauthorized**
22 **entry into a fire scene secured under the authority of ORS 477.365 (1)(f), may be punishable as a**
23 **Class A misdemeanor.**

24 [(4)] **(5) Violations and punishments set forth in this section and ORS 477.740 are in addition to**
25 **and not in lieu of the provisions of ORS 164.305 to 164.335.**

26 **SECTION 2. The amendments to ORS 477.993 by section 1 of this 2025 Act apply to vio-**
27 **lations that occur on or after the effective date of this 2025 Act.**

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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.