

HB 3940-A24
(LC 4758)
6/19/25 (DFY/ps)

Requested by HOUSE COMMITTEE ON REVENUE (at the request of Representative Nancy Nathanson)

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO
A-ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL 3940**

On page 1 of the printed A-engrossed bill, line 2, after “wildfire;” delete the rest of the line and lines 3 through 6 and insert “creating new provisions; amending ORS 242.702, 291.055, 293.144, 293.148, 321.005, 321.011, 321.012, 321.015, 323.500, 323.505, 323.510, 323.515, 323.625, 477.001, 477.205, 477.230, 477.232, 477.270, 477.277, 477.281, 477.295, 477.440, 477.445, 477.450, 477.455, 477.460, 477.750, 477.755, 477.760, 477.770, 477.775, 477.777, 478.010, 478.120, 478.140, 526.122 and section 20, chapter 592, Oregon Laws 2021; repealing ORS 476.310, 476.320, 476.330, 476.340, 477.415, 477.880, 477.960, 477.970 and 526.123; prescribing an effective date; and providing for revenue raising that requires approval by a three-fifths majority.”.

Delete lines 8 through 19 and delete pages 2 through 20 and insert:

“ORAL NICOTINE PRODUCTS TAX

“SECTION 1. Section 2 of this 2025 Act is added to and made a part of ORS 323.500 to 323.645.

“SECTION 2. (1) In addition to and not in lieu of any other taxes, a tax is imposed on the distribution of oral nicotine products in this state. The tax imposed by this section is intended to be a direct tax on the consumer, for which payment upon distribution is required to achieve convenience and facility in the collection and administration

1 of the tax. The tax shall be imposed on a distributor at the time the
2 distributor distributes oral nicotine products.

3 “(2) The tax imposed under this section shall be imposed at the
4 following rates:

5 “(a) For each package containing 20 or fewer discrete consumable
6 units, 65 cents; and

7 “(b) For each package containing more than 20 discrete consumable
8 units, 3.25 cents per discrete consumable unit, rounded to the nearest
9 whole cent.

10 **“SECTION 3.** The balance of moneys received by the Department
11 of Revenue under the tax imposed on oral nicotine products under
12 section 2 of this 2025 Act, after payment of expenses, refunds and
13 credits under ORS 323.625, shall be distributed as follows:

14 “(1) One-third of the moneys shall be deposited in the Landscape
15 Resiliency Fund established under ORS 477.502; and

16 “(2) Two-thirds of the moneys shall be deposited in the Community
17 Risk Reduction Fund established under ORS 476.396.

18 **“SECTION 4.** ORS 323.500 is amended to read:

19 “323.500. As used in ORS 323.500 to 323.645, unless the context otherwise
20 requires:

21 “(1) ‘Business’ means any trade, occupation, activity or enterprise engaged
22 in for the purpose of selling or distributing tobacco products in this state.

23 “(2) ‘Cigar’ means a roll for smoking that is of any size or shape and that
24 is made wholly or in part of tobacco, irrespective of whether the tobacco is
25 pure or flavored, adulterated or mixed with any other ingredient, if the roll
26 has a wrapper made wholly or in greater part of tobacco and if 1,000 of these
27 rolls collectively weigh more than three pounds. ‘Cigar’ does not include a
28 cigarette, as defined in ORS 323.010.

29 “(3) ‘Consumer’ means any person who purchases tobacco products in this
30 state for the person’s use or consumption or for any purpose other than for

1 reselling the tobacco products to another person.

2 “(4) ‘Contraband tobacco products’ means tobacco products or packages
3 containing tobacco products:

4 “(a) That do not comply with the requirements of ORS 323.500 to 323.645;

5 “(b) That do not comply with the requirements of the tobacco products
6 tax laws of the federal government or of other states;

7 “(c) That bear trademarks that are counterfeit under ORS 647.135 or other
8 state or federal trademark laws; or

9 “(d) That have been sold, offered for sale or possessed for sale in this
10 state in violation of ORS 180.486.

11 “(5) ‘Department’ means the Department of Revenue.

12 “(6) ‘Distribute’ means:

13 “(a) Bringing, or causing to be brought, into this state from without this
14 state tobacco products for sale, storage, use or consumption;

15 “(b) Making, manufacturing or fabricating tobacco products in this state
16 for sale, storage, use or consumption in this state;

17 “(c) Shipping or transporting tobacco products to retail dealers in this
18 state, to be sold, stored, used or consumed by those retail dealers;

19 “(d) Storing untaxed tobacco products in this state that are intended to
20 be for sale, use or consumption in this state;

21 “(e) Selling untaxed tobacco products in this state; or

22 “(f) As a consumer, being in possession of untaxed tobacco products in
23 this state.

24 “(7) ‘Distributor’ means:

25 “(a) Any person engaged in the business of selling tobacco products in
26 this state who brings, or causes to be brought, into this state from without
27 the state any tobacco products for sale;

28 “(b) Any person who makes, manufactures or fabricates tobacco products
29 in this state for sale in this state;

30 “(c) Any person engaged in the business of selling tobacco products

1 without this state who ships or transports tobacco products to retail dealers
2 in this state, to be sold by those retail dealers;

3 “(d) Any person, including a retail dealer, who sells untaxed tobacco
4 products in this state; or

5 “(e) A consumer in possession of untaxed tobacco products in this state.

6 “(8)(a) ‘Inhalant delivery system’ means:

7 “(A) A device that can be used to deliver nicotine in the form of a vapor
8 or aerosol to a person inhaling from the device; or

9 “(B) A component of a device described in this paragraph or a substance
10 in any form sold for the purpose of being vaporized or aerosolized by a device
11 described in this paragraph, whether the component or substance is sold
12 separately or is not sold separately.

13 “(b) ‘Inhalant delivery system’ does not include:

14 “(A) Any product that has been approved by the United States Food and
15 Drug Administration for sale as a tobacco cessation product or for any other
16 therapeutic purpose, if the product is marketed and sold solely for the ap-
17 proved purpose;

18 “(B) If sold separately, battery chargers, straps or lanyards; or

19 “(C) Marijuana items as defined in ORS 475C.009.

20 “(9) ‘Manufacturer’ means a person who manufactures tobacco products
21 for sale.

22 “(10) ‘Moist snuff’ means:

23 “(a) Any finely cut, ground or powdered tobacco that is not intended to
24 be smoked or placed in a nasal cavity; or

25 “(b) Any other product containing tobacco that is intended or expected
26 to be consumed without being combusted.

27 “(11)(a) **‘Oral nicotine product’ means any noncombustible product**
28 **that:**

29 **“(A) Contains nicotine derived from any source, or a nicotine ana-**
30 **log; and**

1 **“(B) Is intended for human consumption via the oral cavity by any**
2 **means other than inhalation.**

3 **“(b) ‘Oral nicotine product’ does not include:**

4 **“(A) Moist snuff; or**

5 **“(B) Any product regulated as a drug or device by the United States**
6 **Food and Drug Administration under chapter V of the Federal Food,**
7 **Drug and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 351 et seq.).**

8 **“[(11)] (12) ‘Place of business’** means any place where tobacco products
9 are sold or where tobacco products are manufactured, stored or kept for the
10 purpose of sale or consumption, including any vessel, vehicle, airplane, train
11 or vending machine.

12 **“[(12)] (13) ‘Retail dealer’** means any person who is engaged in the busi-
13 ness of selling or otherwise dispensing tobacco products to consumers. The
14 term also includes the operators of or recipients of revenue from all places
15 such as smoke shops, cigar stores and vending machines, where tobacco
16 products are made or stored for ultimate sale to consumers.

17 **“[(13)] (14) ‘Sale’** means any transfer, exchange or barter, in any manner
18 or by any means, for a consideration, and includes and means all sales made
19 by any person. It includes a gift by a person engaged in the business of
20 selling tobacco products, for advertising, as a means of evading the pro-
21 visions of ORS 323.500 to 323.645, or for any other purpose.

22 **“[(14)] (15) ‘Taxpayer’** includes a distributor or other person required to
23 pay a tax imposed under ORS 323.500 to 323.645.

24 **“[(15)] (16) ‘Tobacco products’** means cigars, cheroots, stogies, periques,
25 granulated, plug cut, crimp cut, ready rubbed and other smoking tobacco,
26 snuff, snuff flour, moist snuff, cavendish, plug and twist tobacco, fine-cut and
27 other chewing tobaccos, shorts, refuse scraps, clippings, cuttings and
28 sweepings of tobacco and other kinds and forms of tobacco, prepared in such
29 manner as to be suitable for chewing or smoking in a pipe or otherwise, or
30 both for chewing and smoking, **oral nicotine products** and inhalant delivery

1 systems, but does not include cigarettes as defined in ORS 323.010.

2 “[~~(16)~~] (17) ‘Untaxed tobacco products’ means tobacco products for which
3 the tax required under ORS 323.500 to 323.645 has not been paid.

4 “[~~(17)~~] (18) ‘Wholesale sales price’ means the price paid for untaxed to-
5 bacco products to or on behalf of a seller by a purchaser of the untaxed to-
6 bacco products.

7 **“SECTION 4a.** ORS 323.505 is amended to read:

8 “323.505. (1) A tax is hereby imposed upon the distribution of [~~all~~] tobacco
9 products in this state. The tax imposed by this section is intended to be a
10 direct tax on the consumer, for which payment upon distribution is required
11 to achieve convenience and facility in the collection and administration of
12 the tax. The tax shall be imposed on a distributor at the time the distributor
13 distributes tobacco products.

14 “(2) The tax imposed under this section shall be imposed at the rate of:

15 “(a) Sixty-five percent of the wholesale sales price of cigars, but not to
16 exceed one dollar per cigar;

17 “(b) One dollar and seventy-eight cents per ounce based on the net weight
18 determined by the manufacturer, in the case of moist snuff, except that the
19 minimum tax under this paragraph is \$2.14 per retail container; or

20 “(c) Sixty-five percent of the wholesale sales price of all tobacco products
21 that are not cigars [~~or~~], moist snuff **or oral nicotine products**.

22 “(3) For reporting periods beginning on or after July 1, 2022, the rates
23 of tax applicable to moist snuff under subsection (2)(b) of this section shall
24 be adjusted for each biennium according to the cost-of-living adjustment for
25 the calendar year. The Department of Revenue shall recompute the rates for
26 each biennium by adding to the rates in subsection (2)(b) of this section the
27 product obtained by multiplying the rates in subsection (2)(b) of this section
28 by a factor that is equal to 0.25 multiplied by the percentage (if any) by
29 which the monthly averaged U.S. City Average Consumer Price Index for the
30 12 consecutive months ending August 31 of the prior calendar year exceeds

1 the monthly averaged U.S. City Average Consumer Price Index for the 12
2 consecutive months ending August 31, 2020.

3 “(4) If the tax imposed under this section does not equal an amount cal-
4 culable to a whole cent, the tax shall be equal to the next higher whole cent.
5 However, the amount remitted to the Department of Revenue by the taxpayer
6 for each quarter shall be equal only to 98.5 percent of the total taxes due
7 and payable by the taxpayer for the quarter.

8 “(5) A tax under this section is not imposed on inhalant delivery systems
9 that are:

10 “(a) Marketed and sold solely for the purpose of vaporizing or
11 aerosolizing marijuana items as defined in ORS 475C.009; or

12 “(b) Purchased in a medical marijuana dispensary that is registered under
13 ORS 475C.833 by a person to whom a registry identification card has been
14 issued under ORS 475C.783.

15 “(6) No tobacco product shall be subject to the tax if the base product
16 or other intermediate form thereof has previously been taxed under this
17 section.

18 “**SECTION 4b.** ORS 323.510 is amended to read:

19 “323.510. (1) Except as otherwise provided in ORS 323.500 to 323.645, the
20 tax imposed by ORS 323.505 and 323.565 **and section 2 of this 2025 Act** shall
21 be paid by each distributor and each common carrier or authorized person
22 specified in ORS 323.565 to the Department of Revenue on or before the last
23 day of January, April, July and October of each year for the preceding cal-
24 endar quarter.

25 “(2) With each quarterly payment, the taxpayer shall submit a return to
26 the department, in such form and containing such information as the de-
27 partment shall prescribe.

28 “(3) The tax, penalties and interest imposed by ORS 323.500 to 323.645
29 shall be a personal debt, from the time liability is incurred, owed by the
30 taxpayer to the State of Oregon until paid.

1 “(4) The returns required of distributors and common carriers or author-
2 ized persons specified in ORS 323.565 under this section shall be filed by the
3 distributors, common carriers or authorized persons regardless of whether
4 any tax is owed by them.

5 “(5)(a) The department for good cause may extend the time for making
6 any return under ORS 323.500 to 323.645. The extension may be granted at
7 any time if a written request is filed with the department within or prior to
8 the period for which the extension may be granted. The department may not
9 grant an extension of more than one month.

10 “(b) When the time for filing a return is extended at the request of a
11 taxpayer, interest shall be added at the rate established under ORS 305.220
12 from the time the return was originally required to be filed to the time of
13 payment.

14 “**SECTION 4c.** ORS 323.515 is amended to read:

15 “323.515. The tax imposed by ORS 323.505 **and section 2 of this 2025 Act**
16 does not apply with respect to any tobacco products which under the Con-
17 stitution and laws of the United States may not be made the subject of tax-
18 ation by [*the*] **this** state.

19 “**SECTION 4d.** ORS 323.625 is amended to read:

20 “323.625. All moneys received by the Department of Revenue under ORS
21 323.500 to 323.645 shall be deposited in the State Treasury and credited to a
22 suspense account established under ORS 293.445. The department may pay
23 expenses for administration and enforcement of ORS 323.500 to 323.645 out
24 of moneys received from the taxes imposed under ORS 323.505 and 323.565.
25 Amounts necessary to pay administrative and enforcement expenses are
26 continuously appropriated to the department from the suspense account. Af-
27 ter the payment of administrative and enforcement expenses and refunds or
28 credits arising from erroneous overpayments, and except as provided in ORS
29 323.627 **and section 3 of this 2025 Act**, the balance of the money shall be
30 credited to the General Fund. Of the amount credited to the General Fund

1 under this section 41.54 percent shall be dedicated to funding the mainte-
2 nance and expansion of the number of persons eligible for the medical as-
3 sistance program under ORS chapter 414, or to funding the maintenance of
4 the benefits available under the program, or both, and 4.62 percent shall be
5 credited to the Tobacco Use Reduction Account established under ORS
6 431A.153.

7 **“SECTION 4e. Section 2 of this 2025 Act applies to tobacco products**
8 **tax reporting periods beginning on or after January 1, 2026.**

9
10 **“OREGON RAINY DAY FUND INTEREST**

11
12 **“SECTION 5.** ORS 293.144 is amended to read:

13 “293.144. (1) The Oregon Rainy Day Fund is established as an account in
14 the General Fund.

15 “(2) The Legislative Assembly may appropriate moneys from the Oregon
16 Rainy Day Fund only if the appropriation is approved by three-fifths of the
17 members serving in each house of the Legislative Assembly and the Legisla-
18 tive Assembly finds one of the following:

19 “(a) That the last quarterly economic and revenue forecast for a biennium
20 indicates that moneys available to the General Fund for the next biennium
21 will be at least three percent less than appropriations from the General Fund
22 for the current biennium;

23 “(b) That there has been a decline for two or more consecutive quarters
24 in the last 12 months in seasonally adjusted nonfarm payroll employment;
25 or

26 “(c) That a quarterly economic and revenue forecast projects that reve-
27 nues in the General Fund in the current biennium will be at least two per-
28 cent below what the revenues were projected to be in the revenue forecast
29 on which the legislatively adopted budget for the current biennium was
30 based.

1 “(3) Once each month, the Oregon Department of Administrative Services
2 shall calculate the amount of General Fund interest that is attributable to
3 moneys in the Oregon Rainy Day Fund. Except as otherwise provided in ORS
4 293.148, the department shall [*transfer the amount calculated under this sub-*
5 *section to the Oregon Rainy Day Fund.*];

6 **“(a) Transfer 6.7 percent of the amount calculated to the Landscape
7 Resiliency Fund established under ORS 477.502;**

8 **“(b) Transfer 13.3 percent of the amount calculated to the Commu-
9 nity Risk Reduction Fund established under ORS 476.396; and**

10 **“(c) Transfer 80 percent of the amount calculated to the Oregon
11 Rainy Day Fund.**

12 “(4) The Legislative Assembly may not appropriate for any one biennium
13 more than two-thirds of the amount that is in the Oregon Rainy Day Fund
14 at the beginning of that biennium. If the appropriation is for a biennium that
15 has not yet begun, the Legislative Assembly may use as the base the most
16 recent estimate of the amount that will be in the Oregon Rainy Day Fund
17 at the beginning of the biennium for which the appropriation is made.

18 “(5) As used in this section, ‘legislatively adopted budget’ has the meaning
19 given that term in ORS 291.002.

20 **“SECTION 5a. ORS 293.148, as amended by section 1, chapter 98, Oregon
21 Laws 2024, is amended to read:**

22 “293.148. (1) If the moneys in the Oregon Rainy Day Fund established by
23 ORS 293.144 just prior to the time of a transfer scheduled under ORS 293.144
24 (3)(c) or 293.146 equal at least 12.5 percent of the amount of General Fund
25 revenues collected during the prior biennium, moneys that would otherwise
26 be transferred to the Oregon Rainy Day Fund shall be deposited in the
27 General Fund.

28 “(2) If the moneys in the Oregon Rainy Day Fund just prior to the time
29 of a transfer scheduled under ORS 293.144 (3)(c) or 293.146 do not equal at
30 least 12.5 percent of the amount of General Fund revenues collected during

1 the prior biennium, the transfer to the Oregon Rainy Day Fund shall be
2 made regardless of whether that transfer increases the amount in the Oregon
3 Rainy Day Fund to at least 12.5 percent of the amount of General Fund
4 revenues collected during the prior biennium.

5
6 **“FOREST PRODUCTS HARVEST TAX FOR**
7 **WILDFIRE MITIGATION AND SUPPRESSION**

8
9 **“SECTION 5b.** ORS 321.011 is amended to read:

10 “321.011. The prevention and suppression of, **and preparedness for**, for-
11 est fires on forestlands for the preservation of forest resources and the con-
12 tinuous growth of timber on lands suitable therefor, are declared to be the
13 public policy of the State of Oregon. The Legislative Assembly recognizes
14 that:

15 “(1) The forested areas situated within eastern Oregon predominate in
16 Ponderosa pine trees and associated species, and that the forested areas sit-
17 uated within western Oregon predominate in Douglas fir and associated
18 species;

19 “(2) Because of this difference in species, different forest fire protection
20 problems exist in eastern and western Oregon, and different logging condi-
21 tions and circumstances in each necessitate varied forest practices in the
22 disposal of forest slashings and debris; and

23 “(3) Therefore, in order to give recognition to such differences and their
24 effect on the accomplishment of the public policy stated in this section, cer-
25 tain classifications of forestlands within the State of Oregon are established
26 by ORS 321.005 to 321.185 and 321.560 to 321.600.

27 **“SECTION 5c.** ORS 321.012 is amended to read:

28 “321.012. The Legislative Assembly finds that it is in the interest of the
29 State of Oregon that the public as a whole share responsibility for protecting
30 the forests of this state, by making funds available [*from time to time*] for

1 suppression of fires [*caused by the public*].

2 **“SECTION 6.** ORS 321.015 is amended to read:

3 “321.015. (1) For the calendar years beginning January 1, 2024, and Janu-
4 ary 1, 2025, there is levied a privilege tax of 90.00 cents per thousand feet,
5 board measure, upon taxpayers for the privilege of harvesting of all
6 merchantable forest products harvested on forestlands. Subject to ORS
7 321.145, the proceeds of the tax shall be transferred as provided in ORS
8 321.152 (2) to the Forest Research and Experiment Account for use for the
9 forest resource research, experimentation and studies described in ORS
10 526.215 and for the Forest Research Laboratory established under ORS
11 526.225.

12 “(2)(a) [*Except as provided in ORS 477.760,*] In addition to the tax levied
13 by subsection (1) of this section, there is levied a forest products harvest tax
14 upon taxpayers of [*62.5 cents*] **one dollar** per thousand feet, board measure,
15 for the privilege of harvesting all merchantable forest products harvested on
16 forestlands for the payment of benefits related to fire suppression as provided
17 in ORS 321.005 to 321.185, 321.560 to 321.600 and 477.440 to 477.460.

18 **“(b)(A) The rate set under paragraph (a) of this subsection for any**
19 **calendar year shall be adjusted by the percentage, if any, by which the**
20 **monthly averaged Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers,**
21 **West Region (All Items) for the 12 consecutive months ending August**
22 **31 of the prior calendar year exceeds the monthly averaged index for**
23 **the 12 consecutive months ending August 31, 2024.**

24 **“(B) The adjusted rate computed under subparagraph (A) of this**
25 **paragraph shall be rounded to the nearest one-tenth of a cent.**

26 “(3) For the calendar years beginning January 1, 2024, and January 1,
27 2025, in addition to the taxes levied under subsections (1) and (2) of this
28 section, there is levied a privilege tax upon taxpayers for the privilege of
29 harvesting all merchantable forest products harvested on forestlands in the
30 amount of 253.46 cents per thousand feet, board measure, for the purpose of

1 administering the Oregon Forest Practices Act in an amount not to exceed
2 40 percent of the total expenditures approved by the Legislative Assembly for
3 this purpose, including salary adjustments approved by the Legislative As-
4 sembly for fiscal years 2024 and 2025.

5 “(4) For the calendar years beginning January 1, 2024, and January 1,
6 2025, in addition to the taxes levied by subsections (1) to (3) of this section,
7 there is levied a privilege tax of 21 cents per thousand feet, board measure,
8 upon taxpayers for the privilege of harvesting all merchantable forest pro-
9 ducts harvested on forestlands. Subject to ORS 321.145, the proceeds of the
10 tax shall be transferred as provided in ORS 321.152 (5) to the subaccount
11 established pursuant to ORS 350.520 for use by Oregon State University for
12 the purpose of making investments in professional forestry education at the
13 College of Forestry.

14 “(5) Subject to subsection (6) of this section, the taxes shall be measured
15 by and be applicable to each per thousand feet, board measure, on the total
16 quantity of forest products harvested in this state measured by use of any
17 log scale which is or may be in general use in the logging industry and
18 which is designed to measure total volume of merchantable forest products
19 in board feet. However, if the Department of Revenue finds that the scale
20 used by any taxpayer in computing the taxes due under ORS 321.005 to
21 321.185 and 321.560 to 321.600 does not accurately reflect the total quantity
22 of merchantable forest products harvested by the taxpayer, it may require the
23 taxpayer to adopt another log scale in general use in the industry which in
24 the department’s opinion will accurately reflect merchantable harvest in
25 board feet.

26 “(6) The first 25,000 feet, board measure, of forest products harvested an-
27 nually by any taxpayer during each calendar year shall be excluded from the
28 total quantity of harvested forest products that constitutes the measure of
29 the taxes under ORS 321.005 to 321.185 and 321.560 to 321.600.

30 “(7)(a) Not later than March 10 of each odd-numbered year, the Legisla-

1 tive Assembly shall begin considering the biennial forest products harvest
2 tax rates levied under subsections (1), (3) and (4) of this section.

3 “(b) Upon request of the Legislative Revenue Officer or the Legislative
4 Fiscal Officer, the State Forestry Department shall provide the respective
5 officers with relevant timber harvest data for the purposes of paragraph (a)
6 of this subsection.

7 **“SECTION 7. The amendments to ORS 321.015 by section 6 of this**
8 **2025 Act apply to calendar years beginning on or after January 1, 2026.**

9 **“SECTION 8.** ORS 321.005 is amended to read:

10 “321.005. As used in ORS 321.005 to 321.185[,] **and** 321.560 to 321.600 [*and*
11 *477.440 to 477.460*], unless the context requires otherwise:

12 “[*(1) ‘Board’ means the State Board of Forestry.*]

13 “[*(2) ‘Protected forestlands’ means those lands which are protected from the*
14 *starting or spread of fire thereon or therefrom by:*]

15 “[*(a) The State Forester, with the approval of the board;*]

16 “[*(b) The United States of America through contract with the State*
17 *Forester;*]

18 “[*(c) Any forest protective agency under contract with the State Forester or*
19 *the board pursuant to ORS 477.406; or*]

20 “[*(d) Any forest protective agency, described in paragraph (c) of this sub-*
21 *section, under an agreement with the United States of America wherein such*
22 *agency agrees to protect specific federal forestlands and, in return, the United*
23 *States of America agrees to protect specific lands of such agency.*]

24 “[*(3) ‘Department’ means the Department of Revenue.*]

25 “[*(4) ‘Committee’ means the Emergency Fire Cost Committee.*]

26 **“(1) ‘Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, West Region**
27 **(All Items)’ means the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consum-**
28 **ers, West Region (All Items), as published by the Bureau of Labor**
29 **Statistics of the United States Department of Labor.**

30 “[*(5)*] **(2) ‘Forestland’ means any land producing forest products.**

1 “[6)] (3) ‘Forest products’ means products from harvested timber, but does
2 not include products from short rotation fiber grown under agricultural
3 conditions as described in ORS 321.267 (3) or 321.824 (3), western juniper or
4 products from harvested western juniper.

5 “[7)] (4) ‘Harvest’ means the point at which timber that has been cut,
6 severed, or removed for purposes of sale or use is first measured in the or-
7 dinary course of business as determined by reference to common practice in
8 the timber industry.

9 “[8)] (5) ‘Merchantable stand of timber’ means any stand on forestlands
10 containing living or dead timber which is being or can be harvested.

11 “[9) *‘Taxpayer’ means the owner of timber at time of harvest.*]

12 **“(6) ‘Owner of timber’ means any individual or combination of in-
13 dividuals, partnership, firm, corporation or association of whatever
14 nature holding title to harvested timber by virtue of:**

15 **“(a) An instrument of conveyance;**

16 **“(b) The harvesting of the timber; or**

17 **“(c) The harvesting of the timber and payment therefor.**

18 “[10)] (7) ‘Taxes’ means the taxes provided for in ORS 321.015.

19 “[11) *‘Owner of timber’ means any individual or combination of individ-
20 uals, partnership, firm, corporation or association of whatever nature holding
21 title to harvested timber by virtue of:]*

22 *“(a) An instrument of conveyance;]*

23 *“(b) The harvesting of the timber; or]*

24 *“(c) The harvesting of the timber and payment therefor.]*

25 **“(8) ‘Taxpayer’ means the owner of timber at time of harvest.**

26 “[12)] (9) ‘Timber’ means all logs which can be measured in board feet
27 and other forest products as determined by department rule.

28 **“SECTION 9. ORS 477.415 is repealed.**

29
30 **“REDUCTION OF WILDFIRE RISK**

1 **“SECTION 9a.** Section 20, chapter 592, Oregon Laws 2021, as amended
2 by section 40, chapter 602, Oregon Laws 2023, is amended to read:

3 **“Sec. 20.** *[(1) The State Forestry Department shall complete the operation*
4 *of projects under section 18, chapter 592, Oregon Laws 2021, no later than June*
5 *30, 2025.]*

6 *“[(2)] (1) The [department] State Forestry Department* shall report re-
7 garding progress in carrying out projects under *[section 18, chapter 592,*
8 *Oregon Laws 2021,]* **ORS 477.503** to an interim committee of the Legislative
9 Assembly related to natural resources, in the manner provided by ORS
10 192.245, and to the Governor, State Wildfire Programs Director and Wildfire
11 Programs Advisory Council no later than January 15, 2022. The report shall
12 include, but need not be limited to:

13 “(a) An explanation of how landscapes were selected, a summary of the
14 selected projects, a description of initial outcomes from projects selected
15 under the requirements established by *[section 18, chapter 592, Oregon Laws*
16 *2021,]* **ORS 477.503** anticipated time frames for completion of the projects and
17 any initial recommendations concerning landscape identification and projects
18 selected under the requirements established by *[section 18, chapter 592,*
19 *Oregon Laws 2021]* **ORS 477.503;**

20 “(b) A description of the funding source types and amounts secured by the
21 department as matching funds to implement projects; and

22 “(c) A summary of outreach and coordination with relevant federal and
23 state agencies, counties, cities and other units of local government, federally
24 recognized Indian tribes in this state, public and private forestland and
25 rangeland owners, forestland and rangeland collaboratives and other relevant
26 community organizations to identify and select landscapes for treatment and
27 develop selection criteria for projects.

28 *“[(3)(a)] (2)(a)* The department shall report its findings and recommen-
29 dations regarding wildfire risk reduction on forestland and rangeland and in
30 communities, based on information obtained from the projects described in

1 [section 18, chapter 592, Oregon Laws 2021,] **ORS 477.503** to an interim com-
2 mittee of the Legislative Assembly related to natural resources, in the man-
3 ner provided by ORS 192.245, and to the Governor, State Wildfire Programs
4 Director and Wildfire Programs Advisory Council no later than July 15, 2023.

5 The report shall include, but need not be limited to:

6 “(A) A qualitative and quantitative summary of the project outcomes that,
7 at a minimum, states the number of acres treated, the treatment actions
8 carried out and any resulting or anticipated changes in landscape conditions
9 related to enhanced resiliency or the mitigation of wildfire risk to public
10 values;

11 “(B) The identification of barriers to more efficient implementation and
12 achievement of goals in future wildfire risk reduction projects;

13 “(C) A qualitative and quantitative summary of the use of prescribed fire
14 activities and invasive annual grass treatments for wildfire risk reduction
15 that, at a minimum, states the number of acres burned or treated and any
16 resulting or anticipated changes in landscape conditions related to enhanced
17 resiliency or the mitigation of wildfire risk to public values;

18 “(D) The identification of existing disincentives to, and recommendation
19 for reducing barriers to, the use of prescribed fire;

20 “(E) Recommendations for creating optimal working relationships with
21 forestland or rangeland collaboratives and other relevant community organ-
22 izations regarding future wildfire risk reduction projects;

23 “(F) A description of the funding source types and amounts secured by the
24 department as matching funds to carry out projects; and

25 “(G) Recommendations for investment in future wildfire risk reduction
26 projects to be carried out in the 2023-2025 biennium.

27 “(b) In developing the report required under this subsection, the depart-
28 ment shall work in coordination with federal land management agencies,
29 institutions of higher education and third parties to develop consistent per-
30 formance measurements and condition-based metrics for monitoring and

1 communicating the effectiveness of state investments and project actions in
2 reducing wildfire risk on public or private forestlands and rangelands and
3 in communities.

4
5 **“STATE FORESTRY DEPARTMENT LARGE WILDFIRE FUND**

6
7 **“SECTION 10. (1) The State Forestry Department Large Wildfire**
8 **Fund is established in the State Treasury, separate and distinct from**
9 **the General Fund.**

10 **“(2) The State Forestry Department Large Wildfire Fund shall be**
11 **held by the State Treasurer as a fund for use by the State Forestry**
12 **Department for wildfire mitigation and suppression. The State Treas-**
13 **urer shall deposit and invest moneys in the fund as provided by law,**
14 **taking into account its uses. Interest earned by the fund shall be**
15 **credited to the fund.**

16 **“(3) The fund consists of moneys appropriated by the Legislative**
17 **Assembly for deposit in the fund, moneys received by the department**
18 **from the federal government and other moneys appropriated to, allo-**
19 **cated to, deposited in or transferred to the fund by the Legislative**
20 **Assembly or otherwise.**

21 **“SECTION 10a. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this sec-**
22 **tion, the State Forestry Department may transfer moneys from the**
23 **State Forestry Department Large Wildfire Fund to other funds or ac-**
24 **counts that are continuously appropriated to the department as the**
25 **department deems necessary to carry out its duties.**

26 **“(2) The department may not transfer moneys from the State**
27 **Forestry Department Large Wildfire Fund to the Oregon Forest Land**
28 **Protection Fund.**

29
30 **“DEFINITION OF ‘CENTRALIZED ADMINISTRATION COSTS’**

1 **“SECTION 11.** ORS 477.001 is amended to read:

2 “477.001. As used in this chapter[, *unless the context otherwise requires*]:

3 “(1) ‘Additional fire hazard’ means a hazard that has been determined to
4 exist by the forester pursuant to ORS 477.580.

5 “(2) ‘Board’ means the State Board of Forestry.

6 “(3) ‘Campfire’ means any open fire used for cooking, personal warmth,
7 lighting, ceremonial or aesthetic purposes that is hand built and that is not
8 associated with any debris disposal activities.

9 **“(4) ‘Centralized administration costs’ means all costs associated
10 with:**

11 **“(a) Administration of the State Forestry Department;**

12 **“(b) The following services, provided statewide and in areas of this
13 state by the department:**

14 **“(A) Fire management on forestland;**

15 **“(B) Emergency response and support; and**

16 **“(C) Other services not described in this paragraph; and**

17 **“(c) The procurement of supplies related to purposes described in
18 this subsection.**

19 “[(4)] (5) ‘Department’ means the State Forestry Department.

20 “[(5)] (6) ‘District’ means a forest protection district organized under ORS
21 477.225.

22 “[(6)] (7) ‘Every reasonable effort’ means the use of the reasonably avail-
23 able personnel and equipment under the supervision and control of an owner
24 or operator, which are needed and effective to fight the fire in the judgment
25 of the forester and which can be brought to bear on the fire in a timely
26 fashion.

27 “[(7)] (8) ‘Fire season’ means a period designated pursuant to ORS 477.505.

28 “[(8)] (9) ‘Fiscal year’ means the period beginning on July 1 of any year
29 and ending on June 30 of the next year.

30 “[(9)] (10) ‘Forestland’ means any woodland, brushland, timberland,

1 grazing land or clearing that, during any time of the year, contains enough
2 forest growth, slashing or vegetation to constitute, in the judgment of the
3 forester, a fire hazard, regardless of how the land is zoned or taxed. As used
4 in this subsection, 'clearing' means any grassland, improved area, lake,
5 meadow, mechanically or manually cleared area, road, rocky area, stream or
6 other similar forestland opening that is surrounded by or contiguous to
7 forestland and that has been included in areas classified as forestland under
8 ORS 526.305 to 526.370.

9 "[10] (11) 'Forest patrol assessment' means the costs levied and assessed
10 under ORS 477.270.

11 "[11] (12) 'Forest protective association' or 'association' means an asso-
12 ciation, group or agency composed of owners of forestlands, organized for the
13 purpose of protecting such forestlands from fire.

14 "[12] (13) 'Forest resource' means the various types of vegetation
15 normally growing on Oregon's forestland, the associated harvested products
16 and the associated residue, including but not limited to brush, grass, logs,
17 saplings, seedlings, trees and slashing.

18 "[13] (14) 'Forester' means the State Forester or authorized represen-
19 tative.

20 "[14] (15) 'Governing body' of a county means the county court or board
21 of county commissioners.

22 "[15] (16) 'Grazing land' is defined by ORS 477.205.

23 "[16] (17) 'Open fire' means any outdoor fire that occurs in such a
24 manner that combustion air is not effectively controlled and combustion
25 products are not effectively vented through a stack or chimney.

26 "[17] (18) 'Operation' means any industrial activity, any development or
27 any improvement on forestland inside or within one-eighth of one mile of a
28 forest protection district, including but not limited to the harvesting of for-
29 est tree species, the clearing of land, the use of power-driven machinery and
30 the use of fire, excluding, however, the culture and harvesting of agricultural

1 crops.

2 “[~~(18)~~] **(19)** ‘Operation area’ means the area on which an operation is be-
3 ing conducted and the area on which operation activity may have resulted
4 in the ignition of a fire.

5 “[~~(19)~~] **(20)** ‘Operation in progress’ means that time when workers are on
6 an operation area for the purpose of an operation, including the period of
7 time when fire watches are required to be on the operation area pursuant
8 to ORS 477.665.

9 “[~~(20)~~] **(21)** ‘Operator’ means any person who, either personally or through
10 employees, agents, representatives or contractors, is carrying on or has car-
11 ried on any operation.

12 “[~~(21)~~] **(22)** ‘Owner’ means an individual, a combination of individuals, a
13 partnership, a corporation, the State of Oregon or a political subdivision
14 thereof, or an association of any nature that holds an ownership interest in
15 land.

16 “[~~(22)~~] **(23)** ‘Political subdivision’ includes, but is not limited to, counties,
17 cities and special districts.

18 “[~~(23)~~] **(24)** ‘Rangeland’ is defined by ORS 477.315.

19 “[~~(24)~~] **(25)** ‘Routine road maintenance’ is defined by ORS 477.625.

20 “[~~(25)~~] **(26)** ‘Side’ means any single unit of a logging operation employing
21 power-driven machinery.

22 “[~~(26)~~] **(27)** ‘Slashing’ means the forest debris or refuse on any forestland
23 resulting from the cutting, killing, pruning, severing or removal of brush,
24 trees or other forest growth.

25 “[~~(27)~~] **(28)** ‘State Forester’ means the person appointed State Forester
26 pursuant to ORS 526.031 or the person serving in the position on an interim
27 or delegated basis.

28 “[~~(28)~~] **(29)** ‘Summit of the Cascade Mountains’ is considered to be a line
29 beginning at the intersection of the northern boundary of the State of
30 Oregon and the western boundary of Wasco County; thence southerly along

1 the western boundaries of Wasco, Jefferson, Deschutes and Klamath Coun-
2 ties to the southern boundary of the State of Oregon.

3 “[29] **(30)** ‘Timberland’ is defined by ORS 477.205.

4 “[30] **(31)** ‘Warden’ means a fire warden appointed under ORS 477.355.

5 6 **“FOREST PROTECTION DISTRICTS**

7
8 **“SECTION 12.** ORS 477.205 is amended to read:

9 “477.205. As used in ORS 477.205 to 477.281[, *unless the context requires*
10 *otherwise*]:

11 **“(1) ‘Budget’ means an estimate of the amount of moneys a forest**
12 **protection district needs for preparedness for, and for the prevention**
13 **and suppression of, forest fires on forestland, not including centralized**
14 **administration costs.**

15 “[1] **(2)** ‘Grazing land’ means forestland, within a forest protection dis-
16 trict, that has been classified as Class 3, agricultural class, as provided by
17 ORS 526.305 to 526.370.

18 “[2] **(3)** ‘Timberland’ means forestland, within a forest protection dis-
19 trict, that has not been classified as Class 3, agricultural class, under ORS
20 526.305 to 526.370.

21 **“SECTION 13.** ORS 477.230 is amended to read:

22 “477.230. (1) The annual cost of protection provided by the [forester] **State**
23 **Forester** for forestland within a forest protection district shall be as [fol-
24 lows:] **described in this section.**

25 “[a] **(2)(a)** Grazing land within the district shall be protected by the
26 [forester] **State Forester** at a pro rata cost **of not less than 30 cents** per
27 acre for all grazing land within the district boundary. However, forest patrol
28 assessments levied and assessed under ORS 477.270 against such lands that
29 are not owned by public agencies, **including grazing land owned in fee**
30 **by a federally recognized Indian tribe in this state or by a member of**

1 **a federally recognized Indian tribe in this state**, may not exceed one-half
2 of the pro rata cost per acre, exclusive of any [*assessment per acre under*
3 *ORS 477.880*] **distributions made to forest protection districts from the**
4 **Oregon Forest Land Protection Fund under section 20 of this 2025**
5 **Act.**

6 “(b)(A) Except as provided by subparagraph (B) of this paragraph,
7 the rates established by paragraph (a) of this subsection shall be ad-
8 justed annually for inflation since 2025 based on the Consumer Price
9 Index for All Urban Consumers, West Region (All Items), as published
10 by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of
11 Labor.

12 “(B) If the annual adjustment under this paragraph results in a rate
13 that is lower than the rate for the previous year, the rate shall remain
14 unchanged from the previous year.

15 “[*(b)*] (3) Timberland within the district shall be protected by the
16 [*forester*] **State Forester** at a pro rata cost per acre for all timberland within
17 the district boundary. However, forest patrol assessments levied and assessed
18 under ORS 477.270 against [*such lands*] **timberland** that [*are*] **is** not owned
19 by public agencies, **including timberland owned in fee by a federally**
20 **recognized Indian tribe in this state or by a member of a federally re-**
21 **cognized Indian tribe in this state**, may not exceed one-half of the pro rata
22 cost per acre, exclusive of any [*assessment per acre under ORS 477.880*] **dis-**
23 **tributions made to forest protection districts from the Oregon Forest**
24 **Land Protection Fund under section 20 of this 2025 Act.**

25 “[*(2)*] (4) The cost of protection described in this section shall be in ac-
26 cordance with a budget for the district approved by the State Board of
27 Forestry.

28 “**SECTION 14.** ORS 477.270 is amended to read:

29 “477.270. (1) Subject to the forest patrol assessment limitations set forth
30 in ORS 477.230:

1 “(a) The budgeted cost of the forester, as provided for in ORS 477.205 to
2 477.281, in providing protection for privately owned forestland shall be a lien
3 upon such property, shall be reported by the forester to the governing body
4 of the county in which the lands are situated on or after July 1 of each fiscal
5 year, and shall be levied and collected by the governing body with the next
6 taxes on the land in the same manner and with the same interest, penalty
7 and cost charges as apply to ad valorem property taxes in this state. The
8 governing body shall instruct the proper officer to extend the amounts on the
9 assessment roll in a separate account, and the procedure provided by law for
10 the collection of taxes and delinquent taxes shall apply. Upon collection
11 thereof, the governing body shall repay the entire amount collected to the
12 forester.

13 “(b) In lieu of the procedures under paragraph (a) of this subsection, the
14 forester, under the direction of the State Board of Forestry, may make direct
15 billing of the budgeted cost to owners of forestland and receive payment of
16 the cost therefrom. In the event that under such billing procedures any
17 owners fail to make payment, the unpaid budgeted cost shall become a lien
18 against the property so billed and shall be levied and collected with the next
19 taxes on such property as described in paragraph (a) of this subsection.

20 “(c) The budgeted cost of the forester in providing protection for
21 forestland owned by the state or by a political subdivision shall be paid to
22 the forester on or before the first day of January of the fiscal year for which
23 such protection is to be provided.

24 “(2) Except as provided in ORS 477.230 [(2)] (4), all moneys received by
25 the forester pursuant to this section shall be paid into the State Treasury,
26 credited to the State Forestry Department Account and used exclusively for
27 the purposes of ORS 477.205 to 477.281.

28 **“SECTION 14a.** ORS 477.232 is amended to read:

29 “477.232. Subject to the forest patrol assessment limitations set forth in
30 ORS 477.230:

1 “(1) Actual costs incurred by the [*forester in the prevention and sup-*
2 *pression of*] **State Forester in accordance with ORS 321.011 for adequate**
3 **protection against** fire on grazing land or timberland located within a for-
4 est protection district, in excess of the amount budgeted as required by ORS
5 477.230, but not including those costs eligible for [*equalization by the Oregon*
6 *Forest Land Protection Fund*] **emergency fire cost suppression from the**
7 **State Forestry Department Large Wildfire fund**, shall be, without regard
8 to proceedings for the collection of the costs:

9 “(a) Included in the budget **of a forest protection district** for the next
10 fiscal year; and

11 “(b) Levied and assessed against the grazing land or timberland in the
12 district.

13 “(2) Budgeted amounts not expended may be carried forward as a credit
14 to the assessment rate **for grazing land and timberland, as described in**
15 **ORS 477.230 (4)**, for the ensuing year.

16
17 **“MINIMUM ASSESSMENT AND SURCHARGE**
18

19 **“SECTION 15.** ORS 477.277 is amended to read:

20 “477.277. (1)(a) In addition to any other assessment prescribed by ORS
21 477.205 to 477.281, [*in any fiscal year in which the Emergency Fire Cost*
22 *Committee determines pursuant to ORS 477.760 that the unencumbered balance*
23 *of the Oregon Forest Land Protection Fund is less than \$22.5 million,*] a sur-
24 charge shall **annually** be levied and assessed in the amount of [*\$47.50*] **\$58**
25 for each improved lot or parcel[, *except as provided in ORS 477.760,*] to defray
26 the increased cost of fire suppression on forestland that is caused by the
27 existence of the improvements.

28 “(b)(A) **Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph,**
29 **the surcharge established by paragraph (a) of this subsection shall be**
30 **adjusted annually for inflation since 2025 based on the Consumer Price**

1 **Index for All Urban Consumers, West Region (All Items), as published**
2 **by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of**
3 **Labor.**

4 **“(B) If the annual adjustment under this paragraph results in a**
5 **surcharge that is lower than the surcharge for the previous year, the**
6 **surcharge shall remain unchanged from the previous year.**

7 **“(2) All surcharge moneys collected pursuant to this section shall be paid**
8 **into the Oregon Forest Land Protection Fund.**

9 **“(3) If an owner of forestland files a forest protection plan with the**
10 **forester which is approved by the State Board of Forestry under ORS 477.210**
11 **(2), the owner shall not be required to pay the surcharge levied under sub-**
12 **section (1) of this section.**

13 **“(4) Contiguous lots included in a combined lot that is described in ORS**
14 **477.295 [(3)(a)] (2)(a) and whose owner has made application to the forester**
15 **under ORS 477.295 [(4)] (3) are considered one lot for purposes of subsection**
16 **(1) of this section.**

17 **“(5) As used in this section, a lot or parcel is ‘improved’ if it is indicated**
18 **as improved in the county assessor’s property classification files or if a**
19 **manufactured dwelling is sited on the lot or parcel.**

20 **“SECTION 16. ORS 477.281 is amended to read:**

21 **“477.281. (1) The obligation of an owner of timberland or grazing land for**
22 **payment of assessments and taxes for fire protection of forestland is limited**
23 **to:**

24 **“(a) The payment of moneys pursuant to ORS 321.015 (2), 477.277[,] and**
25 **477.295[, 477.760 (4) and 477.880 to maintain] into the Oregon Forest Land**
26 **Protection Fund; and**

27 **“(b) The payment of forest protection district assessments pursuant to**
28 **ORS 477.205 to 477.281.**

29 **“(2) As used in this section, ‘obligation of an owner of timberland or**
30 **grazing land for payment of assessments and taxes for fire protection of**

1 forestland’ does not include the duties or obligations of the owner under ORS
2 477.066, 477.068 or 477.120 or the obligations of an owner of land included in
3 a rural fire protection district pursuant to ORS 478.010.

4 **“SECTION 17.** ORS 477.295 is amended to read:

5 “477.295. (1)(a) For purposes of making the levy and assessment of costs
6 against forestland under ORS 477.270, the minimum cost to provide fire pro-
7 tection or suppression for any lot or parcel of real property separately as-
8 sessed for ad valorem taxes or other taxes provided by law in lieu thereof,
9 on the current assessment roll shall be not less than **\$20, which amount**
10 **must be paid into the Oregon Forest Land Protection Fund.** [*\$18.75,*
11 *except as provided in ORS 477.760. Three dollars and seventy-five cents of each*
12 *minimum assessment shall be paid into the Oregon Forest Land Protection*
13 *Fund. Otherwise,*] Such assessments shall be determined under ORS 477.230
14 and 477.270.

15 **“(b)(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph,**
16 **the minimum cost established by paragraph (a) of this subsection shall**
17 **be adjusted annually for inflation since 2025 based on the Consumer**
18 **Price Index for All Urban Consumers, West Region (All Items), as**
19 **published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States De-**
20 **partment of Labor.**

21 **“(B) If the annual adjustment under this paragraph results in a**
22 **minimum cost that is lower than the minimum cost for the previous**
23 **year, the minimum cost shall remain unchanged from the previous**
24 **year.**

25 “[*(2) In any fiscal year in which the Emergency Fire Cost Committee de-*
26 *termines pursuant to ORS 477.760 that the unencumbered balance of the*
27 *Oregon Forest Land Protection Fund has:*]

28 “[*(a) Increased to an amount:*]

29 “[*(A) More than \$22.5 million but less than or equal to \$30 million, the*
30 *minimum assessment referred to in subsection (1) of this section shall be \$16.88*”

1 *for each lot or parcel. Of that amount, \$1.88 of each minimum assessment shall*
2 *be paid into the Oregon Forest Land Protection Fund.]*

3 *“(B) More than \$30 million, the minimum assessment referred to in sub-*
4 *section (1) of this section shall be \$15 for each lot or parcel. This amount shall*
5 *be treated in the same manner as assessments under ORS 477.230 and*
6 *477.270.]*

7 *“(b) Decreased to an amount that is at or below \$22.5 million, the mini-*
8 *um assessment referred to in subsection (1) of this section shall be \$18.75 for*
9 *each lot or parcel. This amount shall be treated in the same manner as as-*
10 *sessments under subsection (1) of this section.]*

11 *“[(3)] (2) Upon application to the [forester] State Forester under sub-*
12 *section [(4)] (3) of this section, contiguous lots held under identical owner-*
13 *ship shall be considered as one combined lot for purposes of subsection (1)*
14 *of this section. However, the following may not be included in a combined*
15 *lot:*

16 *“(a) Except as provided in this paragraph, a lot on which a structure has*
17 *been placed or improvements made for the purpose of erecting any temporary*
18 *or permanent structure. One lot on which a single-family dwelling has been*
19 *placed, and lots on which the structures and improvements that are*
20 *appurtenant to that single-family dwelling have been placed, may be included*
21 *in a combined lot that does not exceed 20 acres.*

22 *“(b) A lot that is in a subdivision containing lots that have been or are*
23 *being offered for sale.*

24 *“(c) A lot that is not designated forest or agricultural land for the pur-*
25 *pose of land use or special tax assessment purposes.*

26 *“[(4)] (3) To qualify under subsection [(3)] (2) of this section[,]:*

27 *“(a) An owner of forestland [shall] must make an application to the*
28 *[forester] State Forester no later than April 15 of the fiscal year preceding*
29 *[each] the fiscal year for which the owner desires the land to be assessed*
30 *under subsection [(3)] (2) of this section. The application [shall] must be on*

1 a form prescribed by the State Forester. **The State Forester may charge**
2 a fee of \$25 per combined lot *[shall]*, **to** be paid to the *[forester]* **State**
3 **Forester** at the time of *[first]* application for the combined lot.

4 “(b) **After an application under paragraph (a) of this subsection is**
5 **approved, the owner of the forestland must apply again, as described**
6 **in paragraph (a) of this subsection, every five years.** *[An additional]* **The**
7 **State Forester may charge a fee of \$25 per combined lot [shall], to** be paid
8 to the *[forester]* **State Forester** at the time of subsequent application, *if an*
9 *application for the combined lot was not made for the previous fiscal year*].

10 “[5] (4) The State Board of Forestry may adopt rules for the adminis-
11 tration of the provisions of subsections *[(3) and (4)]* **(2) and (3)** of this sec-
12 tion.

13 “[6] (5) For the purposes of this section, ‘lot’ and ‘subdivision’ have the
14 meanings given those terms in ORS 92.010.

15 16 “EMERGENCY FIRE COST COMMITTEE

17
18 “**SECTION 18.** ORS 477.440 is amended to read:

19 “477.440. (1) **As used in this section:**

20 “(a) **‘Grazing land owner’ means an individual, combination of in-**
21 **dividuals, partnership, corporation or association that holds an own-**
22 **ership interest in grazing land in this state.**

23 “(b) **‘Large forest owner’ means an individual, combination of in-**
24 **dividuals, partnership, corporation or association that holds an own-**
25 **ership interest in at least 5,000 acres of timberland in this state.**

26 “(c) **‘Small forest owner’ means an individual, combination of indi-**
27 **viduals, partnership, corporation or association that holds:**

28 “(A) **An ownership interest in at least 10 acres, but less than 5,000**
29 **acres, of timberland in this state; and**

30 “(B) **All of the acres within a single tax lot and within contiguous**

1 **parcels owned by the same individual, combination of individuals,**
2 **partnership, corporation or association.**

3 “[~~(1)~~] (2) The State Board of Forestry shall appoint an Emergency Fire
4 Cost Committee **for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this**
5 **section and ORS 477.445, 477.450, 477.455, 477.460, 477.755, 477.760, 477.770**
6 **and 477.775.**

7 **“(3) The committee may:**

8 **“(a) Make recommendations to the board concerning the minimum**
9 **qualifications for serving on the committee.**

10 **“(b) Establish standards, requirements or procedures that the**
11 **committee considers necessary for the effective administration of the**
12 **committee.**

13 **“(4) The committee shall consist [*consisting*] of [*four*] six members,**
14 **including one nonvoting representative of the board and five voting**
15 **members who are appointed by the board as follows:**

16 **“(a) Two members who [*shall be*] are, or are representatives of, large**
17 **forest [*landowners or representatives of forest landowners*] owners** whose
18 forestland is being assessed for forest fire protection within a forest pro-
19 tection district.

20 **“(b) One member who is, or is a representative of, a small forest**
21 **owner whose forestland is being assessed for forest fire protection**
22 **within a forest protection district.**

23 **“(c) One member who is, or is a representative of, an owner of**
24 **grazing land, as defined in ORS 477.205, whose grazing land is being**
25 **assessed for forest fire protection within a forest protection district.**

26 **“(d) One member appointed at large to represent one of the groups**
27 **identified in paragraphs (a) through (c) of this subsection.**

28 **“(5) The board shall appoint at least one member [*shall be selected*] from**
29 **each forest region [*of the state*] established under ORS 527.640.**

30 **“(6) Members shall serve at the pleasure of the board.**

1 “[~~(2)~~] (7) Members [*of the Emergency Fire Cost Committee*] shall be ap-
2 pointed [*by the board*] for four-year terms. [*Appointments under this sub-*
3 *section shall be made by the board within 60 days after July 21, 1987.*]

4 “(8) If there is a vacancy for any cause, the board shall make an ap-
5 pointment to become immediately effective for the unexpired term.

6 **“SECTION 19. (1) The State Board of Forestry shall appoint the first**
7 **five voting members of the Emergency Fire Cost Committee described**
8 **in ORS 477.440 on or before December 31, 2025.**

9 **“(2) Notwithstanding ORS 477.440 (7), of the voting members of the**
10 **committee first appointed by the board:**

11 **“(a) One shall serve for a term ending one year after the date of**
12 **appointment.**

13 **“(b) One shall serve for a term ending two years after the date of**
14 **appointment.**

15 **“(c) One shall serve for a term ending three years after the date**
16 **of appointment.**

17 **“(d) Two shall serve for a term ending four years after the date of**
18 **appointment.**

19 **“(3) The board may appoint to the committee persons serving on the**
20 **committee on the effective date of this 2025 Act who qualify under ORS**
21 **477.440.**

22 **“SECTION 20.** ORS 477.445 is amended to read:

23 **“477.445. The Emergency Fire Cost Committee shall:**

24 **“(1) [*Supervise and control*] Oversee the distribution of funds from the**
25 **Oregon Forest Land Protection Fund established under ORS 477.750.**

26 **“(2) Review expenditures from the fund.**

27 **“(3) Review budgets for forest protection districts and provide rec-**
28 **ommendations on the budgets to the State Board of Forestry.**

29 **“(4) Prior to the beginning of each fiscal year, distribute payments**
30 **in their entirety as directed by the fiscal year budgets of forest pro-**

tection districts to the State Forestry Department and forest protection districts.

“SECTION 21. ORS 477.450 is amended to read:

“477.450. (1) *[After July 1, 1961,]* The Emergency Fire Cost Committee shall meet and elect one of its members **as** chairperson. *[The chairperson shall hold office for a period determined by the committee.]*

“(2) Whenever the office of chairperson of the committee becomes vacant, the committee at its next regular or special meeting shall elect one of its members to fill the vacancy.

“SECTION 22. ORS 477.455 is amended to read:

“477.455. (1) Regular meetings of the Emergency Fire Cost Committee shall be held quarterly *[prior to the day set for meetings of the State Board of Forestry, as otherwise provided by law]*.

“(2) Special meetings of the committee may be called by its chairperson or by *[three]* **a majority of the voting** members.

“(3) The act or decision of *[any three]* **a majority of the voting** members shall be deemed the act or decision of the committee.

“[(2)] (4) A staff member of the State Forestry Department shall be designated by the State Forester to serve as administrator for the committee.

“(5) **The committee may employ staff members, in coordination with the State Forester.**

“SECTION 23. ORS 477.460 is amended to read:

“477.460. (1) The administrator **described in ORS 477.455** shall:

“(a) Act as secretary of the Emergency Fire Cost Committee; and *[shall]*

“(b) Carry out the provisions of ORS 477.440 to 477.460 in such manner as the committee shall direct.

“(2) The salary and other expenses of the administrator **and of staff members** shall be paid from the Oregon Forest Land Protection Fund as are other expenses of the committee.

“[(2)] (3) Members of the committee are entitled to compensation and ex-

1 penses as provided in ORS 292.495.

2
3 **“OREGON FOREST LAND PROTECTION FUND**

4
5 **“SECTION 24.** ORS 477.750 is amended to read:

6 “477.750. (1) The Oregon Forest Land Protection Fund is created, separate
7 and distinct from the General Fund.

8 **“(2) [This fund] The Oregon Forest Land Protection Fund** shall be
9 held by the State Treasurer as a trust fund for the uses and purposes pro-
10 vided in ORS 477.750 to 477.775 *[and 477.880]*.

11 **“(3) The State Treasurer shall deposit and invest moneys in the fund as**
12 provided by law, taking into account its uses and purposes. Interest earned
13 by the fund shall be credited to the fund. **If reimbursements are made for**
14 **payments from the Oregon Forest Land Protection Fund, such re-**
15 **imbursements shall be credited to the fund.**

16 **“[(2)] (4)** Notwithstanding any other law and as limited by ORS 477.750
17 to 477.775 *[and 477.880]*, that part of the suspense account created by ORS
18 321.145 that is derived from the tax levied by ORS 321.015 (2) after refunds
19 and other costs permitted by law, shall be credited to the Oregon Forest
20 Land Protection Fund.

21 **“SECTION 25.** ORS 477.755 is amended to read:

22 “477.755. (1) As used in this section, ‘annual expenditure’ means the ex-
23 penses of the Oregon Forest Land Protection Fund obligated in any 12-month
24 period *[designated by the Emergency Fire Cost Committee by rule, corre-*
25 *sponding to the policy period of any insurance for emergency fire costs]*, **con-**
26 **sistent with the fiscal year budgeting of the State Forestry**
27 **Department.**

28 “(2) Notwithstanding ORS 291.238, the moneys in the Oregon Forest Land
29 Protection Fund are continuously appropriated to the Emergency Fire Cost
30 Committee for the purposes of:

1 “(a) *Equalizing emergency fire suppression costs for safeguarding*
2 *forestland in any forest protection district;*]

3 **“(a) Making payments for the fiscal year budgets of forest pro-**
4 **tection districts, but not for centralized administration costs;**

5 “(b) Paying necessary [administrative] expenses, not to exceed the limit
6 authorized by the Legislative Assembly each biennium;

7 “(c) *Contributing to the payment of emergency fire suppression costs in-*
8 *surance premiums, subject to the payment limitation established in ORS*
9 *477.775 (4);]*

10 “(d) *Paying costs related to the availability and mobilization of emergency*
11 *fire suppression resources on a statewide basis; and]*

12 “[(e)] **(c)** Paying for nonroutine purchases of supplemental fire prevention,
13 detection or suppression resources that will enhance the ability of the
14 forester to perform fire protection responsibilities within a forest protection
15 district[.]; **and**

16 **“(d) Issuing loans to the department or forest protection associ-**
17 **ations that relate to necessary wildfire costs.**

18 “[(3) *Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the annual expenditure*
19 *from the Oregon Forest Land Protection Fund from revenues received from*
20 *ORS 321.015 (2), 477.277 (1), 477.295 (1) and (2), 477.750 (1) and (2), 477.760 (4)*
21 *and 477.880 may not exceed the lesser of:]*

22 “[(a) *\$13.5 million; or]*

23 “[(b) *The sum of:]*

24 “[(A) *The lesser of \$10 million or 50 percent of the eligible annual fire*
25 *suppression costs determined by the committee;]*

26 “[(B) *Necessary administrative expenses as determined by the committee*
27 *and authorized under the limit described in subsection (2)(b) of this section;]*

28 “[(C) *Contributions to the payment of emergency fire suppression costs in-*
29 *surance premiums, subject to the payment limitation established in ORS*
30 *477.775 (4);]*

1 “(D) The lesser of \$3 million or three-fifths of the actual cost of activities
2 described in ORS 477.777 (1)(b) and (c); and]

3 “(E) Any amounts expended for nonroutine purchases described in sub-
4 section (2)(e) of this section.]

5 **“SECTION 26.** ORS 477.760 is amended to read:

6 “477.760. [(1) The reserve base of the Oregon Forest Land Protection Fund
7 is \$22.5 million. On or about the last day of February of each year] The
8 Emergency Fire Cost Committee shall:

9 **“(1) Adopt rules relating to the administration of the Oregon Forest**
10 **Land Protection Fund.**

11 **“(2) [Meet and] Annually** determine the unencumbered balance of the
12 fund as of **the end of** the preceding [February 16] **calendar year.**

13 “[(2) In order to maintain the reserve base of the fund at \$22.5 million, the
14 Emergency Fire Cost Committee may request and the State Treasurer may
15 approve transfers to the fund in accordance with ORS 293.205 to 293.225, if the
16 moneys in this fund fall below the reserve base, whether or not there are suf-
17 ficient moneys in the fund to pay the obligations of the fund. Repayment of
18 any such transfers shall be made from moneys paid into the fund pursuant to
19 ORS 321.015 (2), 477.277 and 477.880 and from such other moneys as may be
20 credited to the fund therefor.]

21 “[(3) If the committee determines that the moneys in the fund exceed:]

22 “[(a) The reserve base, and that no repayment obligations are outstanding
23 from transfers made pursuant to subsection (2) of this section, then the De-
24 partment of Revenue shall reduce the taxes described in ORS 321.015 (2) by
25 50 percent for the following calendar year and the surcharge for each improved
26 lot or parcel described in ORS 477.277 and the assessments described in ORS
27 477.880 shall be reduced by 50 percent for the following fiscal year.]

28 “[(b) \$30 million, and that no repayment obligations are outstanding from
29 transfers made pursuant to subsection (2) of this section, then the Department
30 of Revenue may not collect the taxes described in ORS 321.015 (2) for the fol-

1 *lowing calendar year and the surcharge for each improved lot or parcel de-*
2 *scribed in ORS 477.277 and the assessments described in ORS 477.880 may*
3 *not be collected until the calendar year or fiscal year following the determi-*
4 *nation of the committee that the unencumbered balance in the fund is less than*
5 *or equal to \$22.5 million.]*

6 *“(4)(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if the funds referred*
7 *to in subsection (2) of this section are inadequate to cover repayment of trans-*
8 *fers from the State Treasurer or from other sources, the State Forester shall*
9 *increase the following taxes, assessments and charges in an amount adequate*
10 *to ensure repayment of the transfers, and any interest accrued thereon, allow-*
11 *ing for contingencies in valuation, assessment and collection:]*

12 *“(A) The harvest tax referred to in ORS 321.015 (2).]*

13 *“(B) The surcharge on developed lots referred to in ORS 477.277.]*

14 *“(C) The minimum assessment referred to in ORS 477.295.]*

15 *“(D) The acreage assessments referred to in ORS 477.880 (2).]*

16 *“(b) The increases to taxes, assessments and charges shall be apportioned*
17 *based upon the proportionate levels of revenues received from each source by*
18 *the Oregon Forest Land Protection Fund. Any such increases shall be com-*
19 *puted on or before January 1 of each year, and shall be based upon revenues*
20 *received during the previous four quarters. Any such increases shall be made*
21 *in the appropriate calendar or fiscal year following that in which the requested*
22 *transfers from the State Treasurer or from other sources are made.]*

23 **“SECTION 26a.** ORS 477.770 is amended to read:

24 **“477.770. In addition to rules adopted under ORS 477.760,** the Emer-
25 **gency Fire Cost Committee shall [promulgate] adopt** rules relating to the
26 **disposition of moneys from the Oregon Forest Land Protection Fund. [Under**
27 **such rules the committee may require that prior to the payment of moneys from**
28 **the fund the forest protection district expend an amount for emergency fire**
29 **suppression not to exceed a per acre amount determined to be 10 percent of the**
30 **total budgeted amount of all districts as set forth in ORS 477.220 to 477.415**

1 *divided by the total protected acres of all districts. However, any such amount*
2 *per acre shall apply uniformly to each forest protection district.] The rules*
3 **may:**

4 “(1) Set forth a process for reviewing the disbursement of moneys
5 from the fund; and

6 “(2) Establish best practices for reviewing forest protection district
7 budgets and emergency fire suppression costs.

8 “SECTION 26b. The Emergency Fire Cost Committee shall complete
9 any ongoing audits of moneys in the Oregon Forest Land Protection
10 Fund as soon as practicable after the effective date of this 2025 Act.

11 “SECTION 27. ORS 477.775 is amended to read:

12 “477.775. (1) *[Prior to February 1 of each year]* At the first regularly
13 scheduled meeting of the Emergency Fire Cost Committee in a calen-
14 dar year, the *[Emergency Fire Cost Committee]* committee and the
15 *[forester]* State Forester shall consult regarding the purchase of emergency
16 fire suppression costs insurance and the level of coverage to purchase for the
17 fire season of that year.

18 “(2) In determining whether the purchase of insurance is advisable, the
19 *[forester]* State Forester and the committee shall consider:

20 “(a) The cost, coverage and deductible of insurance available from private
21 insurance carriers;

22 “(b) The funding available for fire suppression *[from the Oregon Forest*
23 *Land Protection Fund and other sources]*;

24 “(c) The current condition of forests;

25 “(d) Long-term weather predictions;

26 “(e) Available fire fighting resources; and

27 “(f) Available funds for the purchase of insurance.

28 “(3) If *[the committee and the forester agree]* the State Forester decides
29 to purchase insurance, the *[forester]* State Forester shall purchase insur-
30 ance through the Oregon Department of Administrative Services *[to cover any*

1 *lawful expense incurred by the State Forestry Department, or contractors or*
2 *cooperators, that is payable by the Oregon Forest Land Protection Fund]. The*
3 *insurance may be obtained through negotiation or competitive bids, which-*
4 *ever is in the best interest of [the] **this** state[, its contractors and*
5 *cooperators].*

6 *“[(4) The Oregon Forest Land Protection Fund may not be charged for*
7 *payment of more than one-half of any premium for the insurance.]*

8 **“SECTION 28.** ORS 477.777 is amended to read:

9 **“477.777. (1)** As part of the preparation of the agency request budget
10 submitted to the Oregon Department of Administrative Services pursuant to
11 ORS 291.208 for the State Forestry Department, the State Forester shall
12 prepare, in addition to any amounts budgeted for forest protection districts
13 pursuant to ORS 477.205 to 477.281, a request for a General Fund appropri-
14 ation for the following purposes:

15 **“(a)** Providing funds for the purchase of emergency fire suppression costs
16 insurance under ORS 477.775.

17 **“(b)** Acquiring and placing centrally managed fire suppression resources
18 for statewide use.

19 **“(c)** Acquiring fast-mobilizing, short-term contingency resources to be
20 used based on predictions of severe fire weather, widespread lightning events
21 or serious resource shortage due to a heavy fire season in this state, in the
22 western region of the United States or nationally.

23 **“(d)** Enhancing forest protection district resources in cases where land
24 productivity or other economic factors seriously limit the ability of the
25 [*forester*] **State Forester** to perform fire protection responsibilities.

26 **“(e)** Mitigating forest patrol assessment rates in cases where land pro-
27 ductivity or other economic factors seriously limit the ability of the owners
28 of forestlands in the forest protection district to comply with ORS 477.210
29 (1).

30 **“(f) Providing funds for centralized administration costs.**

1 “(g) Making deposits into the State Forestry Department Large
2 Wildfire Fund established by section 10 of this 2025 Act to provide
3 funding for costs associated with obligations to the General Fund due
4 to estimated emergency firefighting costs.

5 “(h) Providing amounts to offset the annual costs of fire protection
6 provided by the State Forester for certain forestland under section 41
7 of this 2025 Act.

8 “(2) The State Forester shall utilize critical discretion in the expenditure
9 of the funds provided to the State Forestry Department pursuant to the sep-
10 arate request required under subsection (1) of this section.

11 “(3) The State Forester shall report to the Emergency Board, each year,
12 after the close of the fire season, on:

13 “(a) The nature and severity of the fire season;

14 “(b) The moneys expended on fire suppression, **including moneys ex-**
15 **pended on resources acquired in accordance with subsection (1)(b) and**
16 **(c) of this section and moneys expended for emergency firefighting**
17 **costs;**

18 “(c) The balance remaining from the biennial appropriation; and

19 “(d) Any matters arising out of the fire season that may require attention
20 or warrant future consideration by the board or the Legislative Assembly.

21 “(4) When reporting the nature and severity of the fire season under
22 subsection (3) of this section, for each fire consuming 1,000 or more acres,
23 the State Forester shall provide information regarding *[the resulting losses*
24 *on private lands of timber, buildings, fencing and livestock and of grazing*
25 *land capacity if the land is expected to be unavailable for two or more grazing*
26 *seasons.]*:

27 “(a) **The number of buildings that were damaged or destroyed by**
28 **fire during the fire season.**

29 “(b) **The number of acres of forestland that were burned during the**
30 **fire season and an estimate of the economic value of the effects on the**

1 **forestland.**

2 **“(c) The number of acres of grazing land that were burned during**
3 **the fire season and an estimate of the economic value of the effects**
4 **on the grazing land.**

5 **“(d) Any other information the State Forester deems relevant.**

6 **“SECTION 29.** ORS 291.055 is amended to read:

7 “291.055. (1) Notwithstanding any other law that grants to a state agency
8 the authority to establish fees, all new state agency fees or fee increases
9 adopted during the period beginning on the date of adjournment sine die of
10 a regular session of the Legislative Assembly and ending on the date of
11 adjournment sine die of the next regular session of the Legislative Assembly:

12 “(a) Are not effective for agencies in the executive department of gov-
13 ernment unless approved in writing by the Director of the Oregon Depart-
14 ment of Administrative Services;

15 “(b) Are not effective for agencies in the judicial department of govern-
16 ment unless approved in writing by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court;

17 “(c) Are not effective for agencies in the legislative department of gov-
18 ernment unless approved in writing by the President of the Senate and the
19 Speaker of the House of Representatives;

20 “(d) Shall be reported by the state agency to the Oregon Department of
21 Administrative Services within 10 days of their adoption; and

22 “(e) Are rescinded on adjournment sine die of the next regular session of
23 the Legislative Assembly as described in this subsection, unless otherwise
24 authorized by enabling legislation setting forth the approved fees.

25 “(2) This section does not apply to:

26 “(a) Any tuition or fees charged by a public university listed in ORS
27 352.002.

28 “(b) Taxes or other payments made or collected from employers for un-
29 employment insurance required by ORS chapter 657 or premium assessments
30 required by ORS 656.612 and 656.614 or contributions and assessments cal-

1 culated by cents per hour for workers' compensation coverage required by
2 ORS 656.506.

3 “(c) Fees or payments required for:

4 “(A) Health care services provided by the Oregon Health and Science
5 University, by the Oregon Veterans' Homes pursuant to ORS 408.362 and
6 408.365 to 408.385 and by other state agencies and institutions pursuant to
7 ORS 179.610 to 179.770.

8 “(B) Copayments and premiums paid to the Oregon medical assistance
9 program.

10 “(C) Assessments paid to the Department of Consumer and Business Ser-
11 vices under sections 3 and 5, chapter 538, Oregon Laws 2017.

12 “(d) Fees created or authorized by statute that have no established rate
13 or amount but are calculated for each separate instance for each fee payer
14 and are based on actual cost of services provided.

15 “(e) State agency charges on employees for benefits and services.

16 “(f) Any intergovernmental charges.

17 “(g) Forest protection district assessment rates established by ORS 477.210
18 to 477.265 [*and the Oregon Forest Land Protection Fund fees established by*
19 *ORS 477.760*].

20 “(h) State Department of Energy assessments required by ORS 456.595 and
21 469.421 (8).

22 “(i) Assessments on premiums charged by the Director of the Department
23 of Consumer and Business Services pursuant to ORS 731.804 or fees charged
24 by the director to banks, trusts and credit unions pursuant to ORS 706.530
25 and 723.114.

26 “(j) Public Utility Commission operating assessments required by ORS
27 756.310 or charges paid to the Residential Service Protection Fund required
28 by chapter 290, Oregon Laws 1987.

29 “(k) Fees charged by the Housing and Community Services Department
30 for intellectual property pursuant to ORS 456.562.

1 “(L) New or increased fees that are anticipated in the legislative budget-
2 ing process for an agency, revenues from which are included, explicitly or
3 implicitly, in the legislatively adopted budget or the legislatively approved
4 budget for the agency.

5 “(m) Tolls approved by the Oregon Transportation Commission pursuant
6 to ORS 383.004.

7 “(n) Portal provider fees as defined in ORS 276A.270 and established by
8 the State Chief Information Officer under ORS 276A.276 (3) and recommended
9 by the Electronic Government Portal Advisory Board.

10 “(o) Fees set by the State Parks and Recreation Director and approved
11 by the State Parks and Recreation Commission under ORS 390.124 (2)(b).

12 “(3)(a) Fees temporarily decreased for competitive or promotional reasons
13 or because of unexpected and temporary revenue surpluses may be increased
14 to not more than their prior level without compliance with subsection (1)
15 of this section if, at the time the fee is decreased, the state agency specifies
16 the following:

17 “(A) The reason for the fee decrease; and

18 “(B) The conditions under which the fee will be increased to not more
19 than its prior level.

20 “(b) Fees that are decreased for reasons other than those described in
21 paragraph (a) of this subsection may not be subsequently increased except
22 as allowed by ORS 291.050 to 291.060 and 294.160.

23 24 “ACREAGE ASSESSMENT

25
26 “**SECTION 30. ORS 477.880, 477.960 and 477.970 are repealed.**

27 28 “ZONING OF CERTAIN LANDS

29
30 “**SECTION 31. ORS 476.310, 476.320, 476.330 and 476.340 are repealed.**

1 **“SECTION 32. Lands that are classified under ORS 476.310 as zone**
2 **1 lands immediately prior to the effective date of this 2025 Act are**
3 **classified as Class 3 lands, as defined in ORS 526.324, unless and until**
4 **reclassified.**

5 **“SECTION 33. ORS 242.702 is amended to read:**

6 “242.702. As used in ORS 242.702 to 242.824, unless the context requires
7 otherwise:

8 “(1) ‘Appointing power’ includes every person or group of persons who,
9 acting singly or as a board, council or commission, are vested with authority
10 to select, appoint or employ any person to hold any position subject to civil
11 service under ORS 242.702 to 242.824.

12 “(2) ‘Appointment’ includes all means of selecting or employing any per-
13 son to hold any position subject to civil service under ORS 242.702 to 242.824.

14 “(3) ‘Civil service’ means the civil service system established under ORS
15 242.702 to 242.824.

16 “(4) ‘Commission’ means a civil service commission created under ORS
17 242.702 to 242.824.

18 “(5) ‘Commissioner’ means a member of the civil service commission cre-
19 ated under ORS 242.702 to 242.824.

20 “(6) ‘Employees’ means persons whose principal duties consist of pre-
21 venting or combating fire or preventing the loss of life or property from fire.

22 “(7) ‘Fire department’ means any organization maintained by any political
23 subdivision for the purpose of preventing or combating fire.

24 “(8) ‘Governing body’ means the council or city commissioners of a city,
25 the county court or board of county commissioners of a county, the board
26 of directors of a rural fire protection district[,] **and** the board of commis-
27 sioners of a domestic water supply corporation [*and the county court or board*
28 *of county commissioners acting under ORS 476.310 to 476.340 for the purposes*
29 *of preventing and controlling fire on zone 2 rural lands*].

30 “(9) ‘Political subdivision’ means any city, county, municipal corporation,

1 rural fire protection district[,] **or** domestic water supply corporation [*or or-*
2 *ganization authorized under ORS 476.310 to 476.340 to combat fire on zone 2*
3 *rural lands which employs four or more full-time firefighters, not including the*
4 *chief of the fire department*].

5 “(10) ‘Position’ includes any office, place or employment.
6

7 **“RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICTS**
8

9 **“SECTION 34.** ORS 478.010 is amended to read:

10 “478.010. (1) A rural fire protection district may be formed in the manner
11 set forth in ORS 478.010 to 478.100.

12 “(2) A district may not include:

13 “[*(a) Territory within a city unless otherwise authorized by law.*]

14 “[*(b)*] **(a)** Territory within a water supply district organized under ORS
15 chapter 264 if the district has previously been authorized by its electors to
16 exercise the fire protection powers prescribed by ORS 264.340.

17 “[*(c)*] **(b)** [*Forestlands*] **Forestland** included within a forest protection
18 district under ORS 477.205 to 477.281 unless the owner consents and notifies
19 the rural fire protection district[, *however, forestland protected pursuant to*
20 *ORS 477.205 to 477.281 and not exceeding five acres in one ownership shall*
21 *be included in the rural fire protection district without the owner’s consent if*
22 *the ownership includes any structures subject to damage by fire*], **except as**
23 **provided in subsection (3) of this section.** [*Forestland included in a rural*
24 *fire protection district under this subsection subjects the forestland to assess-*
25 *ments for fire protection by the rural fire protection district and the forest*
26 *protection district.*]

27 “[*(d)*] **(c)** Railroad rights of way or improvements thereon or rolling stock
28 moving thereover unless the owner of such property consents.

29 “[*(e)*] **(d)** Ocean shores as defined by ORS 390.605.

30 **“(3)(a) Notwithstanding subsection (2)(b) of this section, forestland**

1 protected pursuant to ORS 477.205 to 477.281 that is within the exterior
2 boundaries of an existing rural fire protection district shall be included
3 in the rural fire protection district without the owner's consent.

4 “(b) Forestland described in paragraph (a) of this subsection is
5 subject to limitations on assessment as described in section 36 of this
6 2025 Act.

7 “(4) Forestland protected pursuant to ORS 477.205 to 477.281 that is
8 included in a rural fire protection district is subject to assessments for
9 fire protection by the rural fire protection district and the forest pro-
10 tection district.

11 “SECTION 35. The amendments to ORS 478.010 by section 34 of this
12 2025 Act apply to all rural fire protection districts, whether formed
13 before, on or after the effective date of this 2025 Act. Forestland de-
14 scribed in ORS 478.010 (3)(a), as amended by section 34 of this 2025 Act,
15 is made part of a rural fire protection district without the district's
16 taking any action to include such forestland.

17 “SECTION 36. (1) As used in this section, ‘qualified forestland’
18 means forestland that is:

19 “(a) Included in a rural fire protection district under ORS 478.010
20 (3); and

21 “(b) Outside the limits of a city.

22 “(2) If a structure exists, in whole or in part, on qualified
23 forestland, the property subject to taxation by a rural fire protection
24 district shall include the value of any structures subject to taxation
25 and may not exceed 10 acres in any one ownership.

26 “(3) If a structure does not exist on qualified forestland, the prop-
27 erty subject to taxation by a rural fire protection district is limited to
28 individual lots or parcels not exceeding 10 acres in size.

29 “SECTION 37. ORS 478.120 is amended to read:

30 “478.120. The authority to include forestland within a rural fire protection

1 district pursuant to ORS 478.010 [(2)(c)] **(2)(b)** applies to forestland within
2 the exterior boundaries of an existing district [*and to forestland on which*
3 *structures subject to damage by fire have been added after July 20, 1973*].

4 **“SECTION 38.** ORS 478.140 is amended to read:

5 “478.140. Any owner consenting to add the forestland of the owner to the
6 district under ORS 478.010 [(2)(c)] **(2)(b)** shall do so on forms supplied by the
7 Department of Revenue. The owner shall file the original with the district.
8 The district shall forward a copy to the assessor of each county in which the
9 land is located, within 20 days of receipt.

10 **“NOTE:** Section 39 was deleted by amendment. Subsequent sections were
11 not renumbered.

12 13 **“TREASURY LOANS**

14
15 **“SECTION 40. (1) As used in this section:**

16 **“(a) ‘Biennium’ means a two-year period beginning on July 1 of an**
17 **odd-numbered year.**

18 **“(b) ‘Borrowing agency’ means the State Forestry Department or**
19 **the Department of the State Fire Marshal.**

20 **“(c) ‘Borrowing fund’ has the meaning given that term in ORS**
21 **293.205.**

22 **“(d) ‘Lending fund’ has the meaning given that term in ORS 293.205.**

23 **“(e) ‘Repayment amounts’ means amounts transferred under sub-**
24 **section (2) of this section, plus any interest or borrowing costs.**

25 **“(2)(a) Notwithstanding the provisions of ORS 293.210 that limit**
26 **when the State Treasurer may transfer moneys between funds of the**
27 **State Treasury, the State Treasurer shall, at the written request of a**
28 **borrowing agency, and subject to paragraph (b) of this subsection,**
29 **transfer moneys under ORS 293.205 to 293.225 to a fund or funds under**
30 **the administration of the borrowing agency for the purpose of enabling**

1 the agency to pay for noncapital wildfire suppression costs.

2 “(b) Before a transfer is made under this subsection, the State
3 Treasurer and the borrowing agency shall report to the Emergency
4 Board:

5 “(A) The amount requested to be transferred;

6 “(B) The amount of wildfire suppression costs above the borrowing
7 agency’s available resources; and

8 “(C) The balance of moneys projected to be available to repay the
9 amount advanced.

10 “(3) If the State Treasurer transfers moneys under subsection (2)
11 of this section, the borrowing agency, no later than the second May
12 15 of the biennium in which the transfer is made, and in collaboration
13 with the Oregon Department of Administrative Services, shall certify
14 to the State Treasurer whether the balance of moneys available to the
15 borrowing agency as of the second June 15 of the same biennium will
16 be sufficient to repay the repayment amounts.

17 “(4) If the borrowing agency certifies that the balance of moneys
18 is insufficient to repay the repayment amounts:

19 “(a) The borrowing agency shall, as soon as practicable, transfer
20 all moneys available for repayment to the State Treasurer, to be
21 credited to the lending fund; and

22 “(b) There is appropriated to the borrowing agency, for the
23 biennium in which the transfer was made, out of the General Fund,
24 an amount equal to the difference between the repayment amounts
25 and the amounts transferred under paragraph (a) of this subsection,
26 for deposit in the borrowing fund for the purpose of repaying the re-
27 payment amounts.

28
29 **“FIRE PROTECTION COST OFFSET**
30

1 **“SECTION 41. (1) In each biennium, the State Forestry Department**
2 **shall apply an offset against the annual costs of fire protection pro-**
3 **vided by the department for forestland that is:**

4 **“(a) Classified as Class 3 under ORS 526.324; and**

5 **“(b) Located within a forest protection district.**

6 **“(2) The department shall apply the offset equally to each acre of**
7 **forestland subject to the offset.**

8 **“NOTE:** Section 42 was deleted by amendment. Subsequent sections were
9 not renumbered.

10
11 **“CASH FLOW REPAYMENT FUND**
12

13 **“SECTION 43. ORS 526.122 is amended to read:**

14 **“526.122. (1) The State Forestry Department Cash Flow Repayment Fund**
15 **is established in the State Treasury, separate and distinct from the General**
16 **Fund. The State Forestry Department Cash Flow Repayment Fund consists**
17 **of moneys deposited in the fund by the State Forestry Department pursuant**
18 **to subsection (2) of this section. Moneys in the fund are continuously ap-**
19 **propriated to the department for the purposes set forth in subsection (3) of**
20 **this section.**

21 **“(2)(a) When the State Forestry Department determines that moneys are**
22 **available to the department in an amount greater than necessary to satisfy**
23 **the current cash flow needs of the department, the department shall deposit**
24 **excess amounts in the State Forestry Department Cash Flow Repayment**
25 **Fund, except as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection.**

26 **“(b) The department is not required to deposit moneys in the fund if the**
27 **balance of the fund is equal to or greater than the outstanding balance of**
28 **moneys appropriated, allocated or otherwise made available to the depart-**
29 **ment specifically for cash flow purposes.**

30 **“(c) The moneys deposited in the fund under this subsection shall not be**

1 considered as a budget item on which a limitation is otherwise fixed by law,
2 but shall be in addition to any specific biennial appropriations or amounts
3 authorized to be expended from continuously appropriated moneys for any
4 biennial period.

5 *“[(3) On July 1 of each odd-numbered year, the department shall cause the*
6 *balance of the fund to be transferred to the General Fund for general govern-*
7 *mental purposes.]*

8 **“SECTION 44. ORS 526.123 is repealed.**

9
10 **“WILDFIRE PREPARED STRUCTURE PROGRAM**

11
12 **“SECTION 45. (1) In collaboration with the Department of Con-**
13 **sumer and Business Services, the Department of the State Fire Mar-**
14 **shal shall establish and implement a grant program called the Wildfire**
15 **Prepared Structure Program to facilitate the retrofitting of dwellings**
16 **existing on the effective date of this 2025 Act, as well as dwellings**
17 **constructed following wildfire damage, to be resistant and resilient to**
18 **wildfire.**

19 **“(2) To implement the program, the Department of the State Fire**
20 **Marshal shall:**

21 **“(a) Publish a list of eligible retrofits and materials that reduce the**
22 **vulnerability of structures to wildfire and flying embers, as identified**
23 **in section R327 of the Oregon Residential Specialty Code or other rel-**
24 **evant industry best practices and standards.**

25 **“(b) Consider the relative cost-effectiveness of the retrofits and**
26 **materials.**

27 **“(c) Award individual grants to persons and block grants to coun-**
28 **ties for the counties to award as individual grants to persons.**

29 **“(d) Establish ranking and criteria for awarding individual grants**
30 **that include a preference for projects that:**

1 “(A) Benefit persons who live in the wildland-urban interface, as
2 defined pursuant to ORS 477.015 and 477.027.

3 “(B) Benefit persons who implement defensible space requirements
4 described in ORS 476.392.

5 “(C) Benefit persons in socially vulnerable communities.

6 “(D) Benefit low-income persons who have demonstrated financial
7 need.

8 “(E) Benefit persons whose homes have been destroyed or signif-
9 ically damaged by a wildfire for which authority has been exercised
10 under the Emergency Conflagration Act set out in ORS 476.510 to
11 476.610.

12 “(e) Establish formats by which persons who receive individual
13 grants and counties that receive block grants must report to the State
14 Fire Marshal.

15 “(3) A person who receives an individual grant shall:

16 “(a) Complete the grant project on a timeline approved when the
17 individual grant is awarded.

18 “(b) Report to the State Fire Marshal in a format designated pur-
19 suant to subsection (2)(e) of this section.

20 “(4) A county that receives a block grant shall report to the State
21 Fire Marshal in a format designated pursuant to subsection (2)(e) of
22 this section.

23 “(5) The department, and counties that receive block grants, shall
24 accept applications for individual grants:

25 “(a) At least once per year, for dwellings existing on the effective
26 date of this 2025 Act, on a date or dates determined by the department.

27 “(b) As needed, for dwellings constructed following wildfire damage.

28 “(6) The department may adopt rules as needed to implement this
29 section, in consultation with other agencies, local governments, non-
30 governmental organizations and the Wildfire Programs Advisory

1 Council.

2
3 "CAPTIONS

4
5 "SECTION 46. The unit captions used in this 2025 Act are provided
6 only for the convenience of the reader and do not become part of the
7 statutory law of this state or express any legislative intent in the
8 enactment of this 2025 Act.

9
10 "EFFECTIVE DATE

11
12 "SECTION 47. This 2025 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the
13 date on which the 2025 regular session of the Eighty-third Legislative
14 Assembly adjourns sine die.".