

HB 4004 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

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Meeting Dates: February 2, 2026

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure exempts certain forestlands from back taxes upon disqualification from special assessment if the State Forester suspends the lands' stocking requirements due to insects or disease and approves an alternate reforestation plan.

Detailed Summary:

Exempts Western Oregon designated forestland, Eastern Oregon designated forestland, and small tract forestland from being subject to back taxes upon disqualification from special assessment when the disqualification is due to the following, caused by insects or disease:

- The State Forester has suspended the density and stocking requirements for reforestation on the land, and
- The land is subject to an alternate reforestation plan approved by the State Forester.

Requires the landowner to submit the approved alternate plan to the county assessor by July 1 of the relevant property tax year to obtain the exemption.

Fiscal impact: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

Revenue impact: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

BACKGROUND:

Most property in Oregon is valued and taxed based on real market value, however there are several special assessment programs that reduce taxes for forestland owners who manage their property for the primary purpose of growing and harvesting timber. Qualification criteria for the program include certain stocking and species requirements. SW Oregon experiences increased mortality of Douglas Firs. Environmental changes (fire, drought, insect infestations) create landscapes that can no longer support the stocking density required to maintain forestland status designation for special tax assessments. Once being disqualified from special assessment status a property owner must pay back the amount of the tax reduction they received for up to the previous five years.