



## Open Government Impact Statement

83rd Oregon Legislative Assembly  
2026 Regular Session

## Measure: SB 1553

Only impacts on Original or Engrossed  
Versions are Considered Official

---

Prepared by: Dexter A. Johnson  
Date: 2/2/2026

---

### SUMMARY

Digest: Bans the recoupment of certain costs that a power company incurs from claims based on a wildfire. (Flesch Readability Score: 65.1).

Prohibits an electric company from recovering from retail electricity consumers certain litigation or settlement costs or expenses if a court or jury finds that a wildfire resulted from the negligence or a higher degree of fault on the part of the electric company.

Requires an electric company that has been found to be liable for damages in a civil action arising out of allegations that the conduct of the electric company caused or substantially contributed to a wildfire to establish and maintain a qualified escrow fund for the benefit of those persons the electric company is found to be liable.

Provides that an electric company that is found to be liable for damages in a civil action arising out of allegations that the conduct of the electric company caused or substantially contributed to a wildfire shall also be liable for any federal income tax liability that a plaintiff or class member owes or pays on amounts the plaintiff or class member receives in relation to the civil action.

Provides jurisdiction to the Supreme Court to hear and determine all appeals from the circuit court in any civil action arising out of allegations that the conduct of the electric company caused or substantially contributed to a wildfire.

Establishes the Wildfire Recovery Fund. Directs that 60 percent of the punitive damages awarded in a civil action arising out of allegations that the conduct of the electric company caused or substantially contributed to a wildfire be deposited in the Wildfire Recovery Fund. Reserves the first \$50 million deposited in the fund to be payable to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Account.

Applies to wildfires ignited on or after January 1, 2020, and before January 1, 2025.

Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

## **NOTICE OF NO OPEN GOVERNMENT IMPACT**