

**REVENUE: No revenue impact**

**FISCAL: No fiscal impact**

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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass
<b>Vote:</b>	4 - 0 - 1
<b>Yeas:</b>	Atkinson, Beyer, Prozanski, Avakian
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	Bates
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Sue Marshall, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	1/18, 1/23

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Revises the forestland-urban interface fire protection program. Allows State Forester to enter into cooperative agreements with local governing bodies or homeowners associations. Modifies ability of State Forester to designate and classify forestland-urban interface land. Reduces quorum requirements of county classification committees and defines members' term limits. Modifies obligation of landowner to minimize fire hazards.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Effectiveness of forestland-urban interface program to control fire
- Differing fire protection priorities between state and federal government
- Possible conflict between fire mitigation and resource protection
- Selection process for county participation

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** The 1997 Legislative Assembly directed the Board of Forestry to establish a program to identify fire hazard areas in the state where urban and forest lands intersect and to develop fire protection programs in counties with the greatest risk. The program directed the Board of Forestry to establish a system to classify forest-urban interface lands and to establish county classification committees. The program defines voluntary landowner responsibilities to minimize or mitigate a fire hazard and limits the liability of landowners who comply with the standards set by the State Forester.

Full implementation of a county level forestland-urban interface fire protection program takes three to four years. Jackson and Deschutes counties have fully implemented the program; implementation is underway in nine other counties, and five counties have received funding to initiate the program.

Senate Bill 99 revises the existing forestland-urban interface fire protection program to allow the State Forester to enter into cooperative agreements with local governments and homeowners associations in the event of apparent conflict between their fire prevention programs. The measure limits the frequency by which landowner mitigation standards are revised to no more frequently than every five years. County classification committee term limits and quorum requirement are defined in the measure. The Board of Forestry is authorized to work with multiple landowners of a single property, and under certain conditions the State Forester may assume the role of a county classification committee. The measure reinstates a two-year compliance schedule for voluntary landowner compliance.