

House Bill 2373

Sponsored by Representative GELSER (Presession filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Allows contiguous lots that are combined for forest fire protection assessment purposes to have single-family dwelling and appurtenant structures and improvements if combination of lots does not total more than 20 acres. Applies to assessments levied and collected on or after July 1, 2008.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to forest fire protection assessments; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 477.295.

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

4 **SECTION 1.** ORS 477.295 is amended to read:

5 477.295. (1) For purposes of making the levy and assessment of costs against forestland under
6 ORS 477.270, the minimum cost to provide fire protection or suppression for any lot or parcel of real
7 property separately assessed for ad valorem taxes or other taxes provided by law in lieu thereof,
8 on the current assessment roll shall be not less than \$18, except as provided in ORS 477.760. Three
9 dollars of each minimum assessment shall be paid into the Oregon Forest Land Protection Fund.
10 Otherwise, such assessments shall be determined under ORS 477.230 and 477.270.

11 (2) In any fiscal year in which the Emergency Fire Cost Committee determines pursuant to ORS
12 477.760 that the unencumbered balance of the Oregon Forest Land Protection Fund has:

13 (a) Increased to an amount:

14 (A) More than \$22.5 million but less than or equal to \$30 million, the minimum assessment re-
15 ferred to in subsection (1) of this section shall be \$16.50 for each lot or parcel. Of that amount, \$1.50
16 of each minimum assessment shall be paid into the Oregon Forest Land Protection Fund.

17 (B) More than \$30 million, the minimum assessment referred to in subsection (1) of this section
18 shall be \$15 for each lot or parcel. This amount shall be treated in the same manner as assessments
19 under ORS 477.230 and 477.270.

20 (b) Decreased to an amount that is at or below \$22.5 million, the minimum assessment referred
21 to in subsection (1) of this section shall be \$18 for each lot or parcel. This amount shall be treated
22 in the same manner as assessments under subsection (1) of this section.

23 (3) Upon application to the forester under subsection (4) of this section, contiguous lots held
24 under identical ownership shall be considered as one combined lot for purposes of subsection (1) of
25 this section[, *except that the combined lot shall not include*]. **However, the following may not be**
26 **included in a combined lot:**

27 (a) **Except as provided in this paragraph**, a lot on which a structure has been placed or im-
28 provements made for the purpose of erecting any temporary or permanent structure[;]. **One lot on**
29 **which a single-family dwelling has been placed, and lots on which the structures and im-**
30 **provements that are appurtenant to that single-family dwelling have been placed, may be**
31 **included in a combined lot that does not exceed 20 acres.**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted.
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 (b) A lot that is in a subdivision containing lots that have been or are being offered for sale.];
2 or]

3 (c) A lot that is not designated forest or agricultural land for the purpose of land use or special
4 tax assessment purposes.

5 (4) To qualify under subsection (3) of this section, an owner of forestland shall make application
6 to the forester no later than April 15 of the fiscal year preceding each fiscal year for which the
7 owner desires the land to be assessed under subsection (3) of this section. The application shall be
8 on a form prescribed by the State Forester. A fee of \$25 per combined lot shall be paid to the
9 forester at the time of first application for the combined lot. An additional fee of \$25 per combined
10 lot shall be paid to the forester at the time of subsequent application, if an application for the
11 combined lot was not made for the previous fiscal year.

12 (5) The State Board of Forestry may adopt rules for the administration of the provisions of
13 subsections (3) and (4) of this section.

14 (6) For the purposes of this section, "lot" and "subdivision" have the meanings given those terms
15 in ORS 92.010.

16 **SECTION 2. The amendments to ORS 477.295 by section 1 of this 2007 Act apply to as-**
17 **sessments levied and collected on or after July 1, 2008.**

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