

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass
Vote:	5 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Bates, Girod, Nelson, Prozanski, Avakian
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Sue Marshall, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	2/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Authorizes the Board of Forestry to modify or waive certain limitations and requirements of the Forest Practices Act for the purposes of a research project conducted by a federal agency, state agencies, an educational institution or a private landowner; as a term of a stewardship agreement; and for the purpose of an operation for planting, growing, managing or harvesting of hardwood timber. A hardwood timber operation may include but is not limited to hybrid cottonwood if the timber is grown on land that has been prepared by intensive cultivation methods and is cleared of vegetation for at least three years after planting, the timber is harvested on a rotation cycle of more than 12 years and less than 20 after planting, and the timber is subject to intensive agricultural practices. Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Need for oversight by Oregon Board of Forestry to protect streams, prevent erosion and protect wildlife related to hardwood timber production.
- Groups who worked together on bill language.

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Hybrid poplars are very fast growing trees that are currently exempt from provisions of the Forest Practices Act (FPA) and special forestland tax assessments when harvested on a rotation cycle of 12 years or less. Growers are interested in longer rotation cycles to allow the use of hybrid poplars for products such as wood moldings. Under current law, a longer rotation cycle will result in the application of the Forest Practices Act to these trees.