

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass

Vote: 7 - 0 - 1

Yeas: Beyer, Gilliam, Krieger, Roblan, VanOrman, Wingard, Clem

Nays: 0

Exc.: Schaufler

Prepared By: Cheyenne Ross, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 3/26

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Expands the membership of forestland classification committees to include one member appointed by the State Fire Marshal. Authorizes the governing bodies of two or more counties to establish a joint forestland classification committee. Clarifies forestland classifications. Authorizes the State Board of Forestry to adopt rules to implement changes.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Passed in the Senate unanimously
- Broad stakeholder participation in work group that produced the measure
- Update is required to keep up with growth
- Everyone receiving services should contribute; reclassification allows this
- Growth can also increase costs of fire suppression
- Current budget as it may affect Department of Forestry staff
- Department staff typically work full-time jobs in addition to fighting fires

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Any county containing forestland may establish a forestland classification committee. Each such committee is comprised of five members: the State Forester and the Director of the Oregon University Extension Services each appoint one member, with the remaining three members are appointed by the county governing body. The committee investigates and studies all forestland within the county to determine what land is suitable primarily for the production of timber, joint use for timber production and livestock grazing, and what is suitable primarily for grazing or other agricultural uses. These determinations must take into consideration specific factors including climate, topography, elevation, rainfall, soil conditions, roads, and the extent of fire hazards. The classification is used to identify and classify lands on which assessments are paid to the Oregon Department of Forestry for fire protection. The classification system has not been updated in over 30 years. Senate Bill 189 is the result of a 2006 stakeholder review process.