

# House Bill 3267

Sponsored by Representative THOMPSON

## 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**.

Reduces maximum percentage of fire protection costs State Forester may assess to landowners. Increases percentage of fire protection cost assistance State Forester may provide to rangeland protection association.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to fire protection costs; amending ORS 477.230, 477.317 and 477.775.

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

4 **SECTION 1.** ORS 477.230 is amended to read:

5 477.230. (1) The annual cost of protection provided by the forester for forestland within a forest  
6 protection district shall be as follows:

7 (a) Grazing land within the district shall be protected by the forester at a pro rata cost per acre  
8 for all grazing land within the district boundary. However, forest patrol assessments levied and as-  
9 sessed under ORS 477.270 against such lands that are not owned by public agencies may not exceed  
10 [*one-half*] **40 percent** of the pro rata cost per acre, exclusive of any assessment per acre under ORS  
11 477.880.

12 (b) Timberland within the district shall be protected by the forester at a pro rata cost per acre  
13 for all timberland within the district boundary. However, forest patrol assessments levied and as-  
14 sessed under ORS 477.270 against such lands that are not owned by public agencies may not exceed  
15 [*one-half*] **40 percent** of the pro rata cost per acre, exclusive of any assessment per acre under ORS  
16 477.880.

17 (2) The cost of protection described in this section shall be in accordance with a budget for the  
18 district approved by the State Board of Forestry.

19 **SECTION 2.** ORS 477.317 is amended to read:

20 477.317. (1) Any group of owners of rangeland that is within a rangeland protection system es-  
21 tablished under ORS 477.320, and that lies wholly outside any forest protection district, may organ-  
22 ize a rangeland protection association for the purpose of protecting the rangeland from fire. The  
23 forester may enter into cooperative agreements or contracts with a rangeland protection association  
24 under the provisions of ORS 477.320 for the purpose of providing the assistance specified in sub-  
25 section (2) of this section.

26 (2) The forester may assist a rangeland protection association with organizing the association,  
27 training association members and acquiring firefighting equipment for the association. The forester  
28 may also assist a rangeland protection association with payment for liability insurance and other  
29 administrative expenses of the association. [*which*] **The assistance provided by the State  
30 Forester** may not exceed [*50*] **60** percent of the total of budgeted operating costs and the cash  
31 equivalent of in-kind supplies and services of the association in any fiscal year. The costs of assist-

**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 ance specified in this subsection may not be paid from funds assessed from forestland owners under  
2 ORS 477.230.

3 **SECTION 3.** ORS 477.775 is amended to read:

4 477.775. (1) Prior to February 1 of each year, the Emergency Fire Cost Committee and the  
5 forester shall consult regarding the purchase of emergency fire suppression costs insurance and the  
6 level of coverage to purchase for the fire season of that year.

7 (2) In determining whether the purchase of insurance is advisable, the forester and the commit-  
8 tee shall consider:

9 (a) The cost, coverage and deductible of insurance available from private insurance carriers;

10 (b) The funding available for fire suppression from the Oregon Forest Land Protection Fund and  
11 other sources;

12 (c) The current condition of forests;

13 (d) Long-term weather predictions;

14 (e) Available fire fighting resources; and

15 (f) Available funds for the purchase of insurance.

16 (3) If the committee and the forester agree to purchase insurance, the forester shall purchase  
17 insurance through the Oregon Department of Administrative Services to cover any lawful expense  
18 incurred by the State Forestry Department, or contractors or cooperators, that is payable by the  
19 Oregon Forest Land Protection Fund. The insurance may be obtained through negotiation or com-  
20 petitive bids, whichever is in the best interest of the state, its contractors and cooperators.

21 (4) The Oregon Forest Land Protection Fund may not be charged for payment of more than  
22 [*one-half*] **40 percent** of any premium for the insurance.

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