

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass
Vote: 4 - 0 - 1
Yeas: Boquist, Hass, Prozanski, Dingfelder
Nays: 0
Exc.: Atkinson
Prepared By: Beth Patrino, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 2/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Modifies description of land in Linn County that may be open burned if steep terrain and species is identified by Director of Oregon Department of Agriculture. Applies to open burning occurring on or after effective date of Act. Declares emergency; effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Error in description of land in 2009 legislation
- Overall limit on number of acres burned remains unchanged

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Field burning disposes of leftover straw and stubble on fields after grass seed harvesting. It is used to control weeds, insects and plant diseases, and helps maintain grass seed purity. The practice began more than 50 years ago, with as much as 250,000 acres being burned in the mid 1980's. Following passage of House Bill 3343 (1991), field burning began to be phased out, with the acreage allowed to be burned reduced from 180,000 to 40,000 acres.

Senate Bill 528 (2009) applied to open field burning, propane flaming and stack pile burning of grass seed crop residues or cereal grain crop residues in certain counties and established that the maximum total acreage allowed to be open burned in 2009 was 20,000, and thereafter none. It established that: the amount allowed to be stack or pile burned from 2009 to 2012 is 1,000 acres and thereafter none, and the amount allowed to be propane flamed from 2009 to 2012 is 500 acres and thereafter none. Lastly, the measure established that an additional 15,000 acres may be burned for certain species or on steep terrain.