

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: HB 3615 - A

Seventy-Sixth Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2011 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office

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Measure Description:

Allows Jackson, Josephine and Douglas Counties to petition Land Conservation and Development Commission to establish regional definitions for “agricultural land” and “forestland” for purposes of statewide land use planning.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Land Conservation and Development, Department of Agriculture, Department of Forestry

Summary of Expenditure Impact: See Analysis

Local Government Mandate:

This bill does not affect local governments' service levels or shared revenues sufficient to trigger Section 15, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

Analysis:

The measure allows Jackson, Josephine and Douglas Counties to petition the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) to establish a regional definition for “agricultural land” and “forestland” for purposes of statewide land use planning. DLCD is directed to coordinate with all the local governments affected in the region and hold at least one public hearing in each county where the definitions would apply.

The measure appropriates \$350,000 General Fund to DLCD to be distributed as grants to Jackson, Josephine and Douglas Counties to assist the counties with the petition after the counties have entered into an intergovernmental agreement with DLCD for the petition process. The measure allows for DLCD to consider a maximum of two additional petitions by adjoining counties beginning in 2013-15 biennium.

DLCD anticipates the need for a 0.50 FTE limited duration position to work with the counties on developing new statewide land use planning goals for the regional definitions of “agricultural land” and “forestland” and to conduct public hearings in the affected counties. DLCD anticipates the total cost for this petition process, including associated Attorney General expenses, to be \$100,000 General Fund for the 2011-13 biennium.

The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) anticipates the need for a 0.25 FTE position to assist in the development of a geographic study and spatial analysis, and data collection in the three counties to best determine the appropriate regional definitions of “agricultural land” and “forestland”. ODA anticipates the total cost for this process to be \$55,284 General Fund for the 2011-13 biennium. ODA notes that depending on the petition process and adjoining counties that may be considered, the position may need to be made permanent.

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) anticipates the need for a 0.25 FTE position to assist in the development of economic and GIS analysis and data collection in the three counties to best determine the appropriate regional definitions of “forestland”. ODF anticipates the total cost for this process to be \$36,273 General Fund for the 2011-13 biennium.

The Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO) notes that the measure does not specify if the intent of the General Fund appropriation for grants to the counties is one-time or on-going and if adjoining counties will be eligible to receive similar grants.

LFO has contacted county representatives for a fiscal impact statement but has not received a response. If fiscal impact information is provided from counties, LFO will issue a revised fiscal impact statement.