

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: SB 862 - A

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

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Measure Description:

Authorizes State Forestry Department to enter into contracts and leases for sale or use of woody biomass from state forestlands and for related activities.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

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 the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) to enter into contracts to provide woody biomass from state forestlands to facilitate development projects. ODF is required to ensure that the contract provisions comply with applicable state forestland management plans. The contracts are considered a sale of timber for purposes of public contracting exemptions. The measure requires ODF to assess the types of woody biomass available and serve as an information resource for persons seeking to utilize woody biomass for energy development. The measure changes the time frame of ODF reporting from every three years to "periodically".

ODF notes that depending on the scope and data required for the assessment and cumulative workload requirements added this session or possible budget reductions, additional staff may be required in order to complete the assessment in 2011-13. ODF indicates that prioritization of duties for the biomass assessment could delay work on other assessments including, but not limited to, fuel conditions, climate change, and forest carbon.

Until the scope and data requirements are identified, ODF assumes that any associated workload relating to the assessment of the types of woody biomass available will be absorbed by existing agency resources.