

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Without Recommendation as to Passage as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means
Vote:	5 - 0 - 3
Yeas:	Cowan, Johnson, Schaufler, Sprenger, Jenson
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Boone, Esquivel, Clem
Prepared By:	Beth Herzog, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	4/13, 4/15

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Establishes Forest Practice Act Administration Division (Division) within Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI). Requires OFRI to allocate no more than 15 percent of money appropriated for carrying out functions of Division. Requires any other money be authorized for funding contracts. Requires Division, at request of OFRI, issue requests for proposals and enter into contracts to provide services related to administration of Forest Practices Act. Stipulates services include: processing forest operation notices; conducting pre and post-operation visits; monitoring compliance with reforestation requirements; surveying and providing advice to landowners on areas with high level of actual or potential landslide hazards; work with landowner to mitigate unsatisfactory forestland conditions; issue citations; provide information to Department of Revenue on timber harvested; achieve efficiencies and reduce cost by working with auditors to ensure compliance of third-party certification systems; and perform fire inspections on industrial forestlands during fire season. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Impact of budget on administration and enforcement of Forest Practices Act
- House Bill 2756 A needs to be a part of a discussion in Ways and Means about funding the Forest Practices Act

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Replaces measure.

BACKGROUND: The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) regulates forestry operations on non-federal land. Landowners and operators are subject to the Forest Practices Act (FPA) and administrative rules when they perform commercial activity to establish, manage or harvest forest trees species. The rules of the Oregon Forest Practices Act went into effect in July, 1972. The ODF Private Forests Program administers the FPA rules. The mission of the Private Forests Program is to develop and promote effective and efficient forest practices that sustain healthy forests; maintain continuous growing and harvesting of forest tree species on non-federal lands; protect forest productivity, fish and wildlife habitat, air and water quality; and foster other forestland values and benefits. House Bill 2756 A would transfer responsibility for administration of the FPA from ODF to OFRI, with direction to contract with other entities to implement the FPA.