

Senate Bill 320

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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**.

Adjusts sunset for tax credit for reforestation. Removes deadline for filing written request for preliminary certification.

Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to tax credits for reforestation; amending ORS 315.104 and section 5, chapter 605, Oregon
3 Laws 1987; and prescribing an effective date.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** ORS 315.104 is amended to read:

6 315.104. (1) A credit against the taxes otherwise due under ORS chapter 316 (or if the taxpayer
7 is a corporation, under ORS chapter 317 or 318) shall be allowed in an amount equal to 50 percent
8 of reforestation project costs actually paid or incurred to reforest underproductive Oregon
9 forestlands. Such costs include, but are not limited to, any fees established by the State Forester
10 under ORS 315.106 (4), site preparation, tree planting and other silviculture treatments considered
11 necessary by the State Forester to establish commercial, hardwood or softwood stands on appropri-
12 ate sites. Subject to subsection (5) of this section:

13 (a) One-half of the credit shall be taken in the tax year for which the State Forester, after
14 physical inspection of the forestland, issues a preliminary certificate under ORS 315.106 certifying
15 that the land qualifies as underproductive Oregon forestland and that the reforestation project
16 undertaken meets the requirements of this section and the specifications established by the State
17 Forester and the costs appear to be reasonable; and

18 (b) One-half of the credit shall be taken in the tax year for which the State Forester, after fur-
19 ther physical inspection of the land and project, certifies that the new forest is established in ac-
20 cordance with the specifications of the State Forester.

21 (2) No credit shall be allowed under either subsection (1)(a) or (b) of this section unless written
22 certification containing the following statements accompanies the claim for the credit or is other-
23 wise filed with the Department of Revenue:

24 (a) A preliminary certificate issued by the State Forester under ORS 315.106 that the land and
25 project meet the preliminary specifications established by the State Forester or that the new forest
26 is established, whichever is applicable at the time.

27 (b) A statement by the landowner or person in possession of the land that the land within the
28 project area will be used for the primary purpose of growing and harvesting trees of an acceptable
29 species.

30 (c) A statement that the landowner or person in possession of the land is aware that mainte-

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 nance practices, including release, may be needed to insure that a new forest is established and will
2 remain established.

3 (3) For purposes of this section, reforestation project costs shall not include:

4 (a) Costs paid or incurred to reforest any forestland that has been commercially logged to the
5 extent that reforestation is required under the Oregon Forest Practices Act, except costs paid or
6 incurred to reforest forestland following a hardwood harvest, conducted for the purposes of con-
7 verting underproductive forestlands, as determined by administrative rule.

8 (b) That portion of costs or expenses paid through a federal or state cost share, financial as-
9 sistance or other incentive program.

10 (c) Those costs paid or incurred to grow Christmas trees, ornamental trees, shrubs or plants,
11 or those costs paid or incurred to grow hardwood timber described under ORS 321.267 (3) or 321.824
12 (3).

13 (d) Any costs paid or incurred to purchase or otherwise acquire the land.

14 (e) The cost of purchase or other acquisition of tools and equipment with a useful life of more
15 than one year.

16 (4) To qualify for the credit:

17 (a) The project must be completed to specifications approved by the State Forester.

18 (b) The taxpayer's portion of the project costs must be \$500 or more.

19 (c) The taxpayer must be a private individual, corporation, group, Indian tribe or other native
20 group, association or other nonpublic legal entity owning, purchasing under recorded contract of
21 sale or leasing at least five acres of Oregon commercial forestland.

22 *[(d) Prior to December 31, 2012, the taxpayer must file with the State Forester a written request*
23 *for preliminary certification under ORS 315.106.]*

24 (5) Any tax credit otherwise allowable under this section which is not used by the taxpayer in
25 a particular year may be carried forward and offset against the taxpayer's tax liability for the next
26 succeeding tax year. Any credit remaining unused in such next succeeding tax year may be carried
27 forward and used in the second succeeding tax year, and likewise, any credit not used in that second
28 succeeding tax year may be carried forward and used in the third succeeding tax year, but may not
29 be carried forward for any tax year thereafter. In all cases the taxpayer must be the person who
30 made the investment into the project.

31 (6) The credit provided by this section shall be in addition to and not in lieu of any depreciation
32 or amortization deduction to which the taxpayer otherwise may be entitled with respect to the
33 reforestation project and the credit shall not affect the computation of basis for the property.

34 (7) In compliance with ORS chapter 183, the Department of Revenue and the State Forestry
35 Department may adopt rules consistent with law for carrying out the provisions of this section.

36 (8) As used in this section, "underproductive Oregon forestlands" means Oregon commercial
37 forestlands not meeting the minimum stocking standards of the Oregon Forest Practices Act.

38 (9) If, for any reason other than those specified in subsection (10) of this section, a new forest
39 is not established by the last day of the second taxable year following the taxable year for which
40 the preliminary certificate was issued, the State Forester shall so report to the Department of Re-
41 venue. The report filed under this subsection shall be the basis for the department to recover any
42 credit granted under subsection (1)(a) of this section. If, however, the new forest is not established
43 within the time required by this subsection on account of the reasons specified in subsection (10)
44 of this section, any credit allowed under subsections (1)(a) and (5) of this section shall not be re-
45 covered but no further credit as provided under subsections (1)(b) and (5) of this section shall be

1 allowed.

2 (10) Subject to requalification under this section in the manner applicable for the original claim,
 3 including obtaining a new preliminary certificate, a taxpayer may claim an additional credit or
 4 credits for reestablishing a new planting in the event that the new forest is destroyed by a natural
 5 disaster or is not established for reasons beyond the control of the taxpayer, if the measures taken
 6 in completing the original or earlier project would normally have resulted in establishing the mini-
 7 mum number of trees per acre anticipated by the project.

8 (11) Any owner affected by a determination, regarding the reforestation tax credit made by:

9 (a) The State Forester, except for a denial of a request for a preliminary certificate due to the
 10 annual reforestation credit cost limitation calculated under ORS 315.108, may appeal that determi-
 11 nation in the manner provided for in ORS 526.475 (1).

12 (b) The Department of Revenue, may appeal that determination in the manner provided for in
 13 ORS 526.475 (2).

14 **SECTION 2.** Section 5, chapter 605, Oregon Laws 1987, as amended by section 4, chapter 887,
 15 Oregon Laws 1989, section 28, chapter 746, Oregon Laws 1995, and section 3, chapter 359, Oregon
 16 Laws 2001, is amended to read:

17 **Sec. 5.** No tax credit shall be allowed under ORS 315.104 based upon reforestation project costs
 18 if the preliminary certificate is not issued on or before December 31, [2011] _____.

19 **SECTION 3. This 2011 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2011**
 20 **session of the Seventy-sixth Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.**

21 _____