

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure
Vote: 5 - 0 - 0
Yeas: Baertschiger, Burdick, Close, Prozanski, Roblan
Nays: 0
Exc.: 0
Prepared By: Racquel Rancier, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 5/14

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires Director of Oregon Health Authority and State Forester to submit report regarding impacts of 2012 Pole Creek wildfire on public health, fish and wildlife, and aquatic habitat to Legislative Assembly no later than February 10, 2014. Specifies purpose of report to increase public awareness of impacts and may include recommendations for legislation to reduce impacts or improve government responsiveness. Declares emergency, effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Timing of submitting report to legislature
- Need to increase public awareness of impacts of wildfire
- Availability and type of air and water quality data collected
- Number of wildfires
- Populations at risk for health effects due to smoke

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: The Pole Creek fire began on September 9, 2012 and grew to 26,795 acres before it was contained in mid-October. The fire investigation team concluded the probable cause of the fire was lightning from an isolated thunderstorm near the Pole Creek Trailhead on September 8. The Pole Creek Fire, six miles southwest of Sisters, sent dense smoke into the town causing the Department of Environmental Quality to issue a warning that air quality had reached hazardous levels. House Bill 3109 A would direct the Oregon Health Authority and State Forester to prepare a report for the Legislative Assembly on the impacts of the Pole Creek wildfire on public health, fish and wildlife, and aquatic habitat.