

PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**CARRIER:**

House Committee on Consumer Protection and Government Effectiveness

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, statement not yet issued**FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, statement not yet issued****SUBSEQUENT REFERRAL TO: Revenue****Action:****Vote:****Yeas:****Nays:****Exc.:****Prepared By:** Wendy Simons, Administrator**Meeting Dates:**

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Allows county that collects forest protection district assessment or surcharge to retain percentage of collected moneys to pay county administrative costs. With regard to projects incurring uncommon administrative costs for county, requires State Forestry Department and county to identify nature, scope and cost of project, and to enter into an agreement setting forth responsibilities of each party. Requires Department to identify and preapprove uncommon administrative costs for the county. Requires county to bill Department for costs, up to preapproved amount.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

Proposed -2 amendment: Limits amount that county may charge State Forestry Department for county administrative costs to one percent of assessment or surcharge. Requires county to give notice of charge for following year by December 31 and to bill Department no later than November 15. Requires Department to pay charges no later than 45 days after receiving bill.

BACKGROUND: The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) undertakes fire suppression efforts on both public and private forest land. ODF bills public land owners directly for these services, while private land owners pay for fire suppression services on their property tax bills as assessed by the counties. In 2014-15, counties charged over \$20 million in assessments on behalf of ODF. Charges to properties differ depending on whether the property is used for grazing or timber production, and are calculated on a per-acre basis with a minimum charge of \$18.75 per tax lot. Improved lots are charged an additional surcharge of \$47.50. Proponents of House Bill 2132 assert that the particularities of calculating ODF charges require counties to incur costs for computer programming and setting up separate property tax accounts for certain lots.

House Bill 2132 allows counties to charge ODF up to one percent of forest protection district assessments for county administrative costs, and allows ODF and counties to enter into an agreement that ODF will pay a one-time administrative fee when ODF undertakes a project that requires additional administrative costs for counties.