

PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**CARRIER:**

Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

REVENUE: No Revenue Impact (-A5)**FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact (-A5)****SUBSEQUENT REFERRAL TO:****Action:****Vote:****Yeas:****Nays:****Exc.:**

Ayes, 43; Nays, 11--Bentz, Davis, McLane, Nearman, Post, Smith, Sprenger, Stark, Whisnant, Whitsett, Wilson; Excused, 6
--

Prepared By: Beth Reiley, Administrator**Meeting Dates:** 4/27

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires organizers of large commercial events on state forestlands to obtain permit from Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF). Stipulates permit does not entitle organizer to make and physical changes to state forestland. Creates requirements for large commercial event permit application and authorizes ODF to charge fee for reviewing and processing application. Authorizes ODF to consult with Oregon Health Authority and Department of Environmental Quality prior to adopting rules establishing health and safety standards for events. Authorizes ODF to suspend or revoke permit under certain circumstances. Establishes event organizer commits Class A misdemeanor if they violate permit requirement, or recklessly allow violation of permit terms and conditions.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: (Proposed –A5 Amendment) Increases number of participating individuals in large commercial event to 50. Stipulates large commercial events mean gathering that continues or is scheduled to continue for more than four consecutive hours. Authorizes ODF to develop standards that include buffer zones between large commercial events and known cultural resources.

BACKGROUND: The Oregon Department of Forestry manages roughly 821,000 acres of forestlands, primarily concentrated in six large state forests. State forestlands are managed by the Department to provide economic, environmental and social benefits to Oregonians. Large unregulated events, particularly in remote state forest areas, raise the potential for impact on sensitive resources, valuable timber and forest management areas and on public health, safety and welfare.

House Bill 2453A would make conducting large, commercial events on state forests subject to review for potential impacts and permit requirements to address any potential environmental, resource and health and safety concerns.