

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**House Committee On Rural Communities, Land Use, and Water****Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact**Action Date:** 04/21/15**Action:** Do Pass As Amended, Be Printed Engrossed, And Bill Be Referred To Ways And Means.**Meeting Dates:** 04/07, 04/21**Vote:**

Yeas: 7 - Clem, Gilliam, Gomberg, Helm, McLane, Post, Witt

Prepared By: Ian Davidson, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) to work with Department of Forestry and other state agencies to develop comprehensive landslide hazard assessment program. Instructs DOGAMI to review further sites that could experience landslides that present comparatively high risk of causing damage. Requires program to provide for comprehensive assessment of landslide hazards and level of risk caused by those hazards, and for implementation of landslide hazard mitigation measures. Specifies mitigation program must include identification and prioritization of high landslide risk areas and certain landslide hazard mitigation measures. Directs DOGAMI to determine level of risk caused by landslide hazards in high landslide risk areas. Assigns duties to DOGAMI under program. Requires DOGAMI to appoint advisory committee to assist in program implementation. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Senate Bill 12 (1999)
- Effect of landslides in winter of 1996-1997
- Statewide Planning Goal 7

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Directs DOGAMI to develop a comprehensive landslide hazard assessment program and advisory committee instead of comprehensive landslide hazard mitigation program and advisory committee. Removes directive to DOGAMI to review further sites that experience landslides that present comparatively high risk of causing damage to important natural features, including but not limited to watersheds that are sources of drinking water or streams that support fish populations that are classified as sensitive species, threatened species or endangered species by the State Fish and Wildlife Commission. Directs DOGAMI to determine level of risk caused by landslide hazards in high landslide risk areas.

BACKGROUND:

Senate Bill 12, enacted in 1999, directed state and local governments to protect people from rapidly moving landslides or debris flows. The legislation was adopted in the wake of the catastrophic landslide events that occurred in Oregon in 1996-1997. In the winter of 1996-1997, there were over 9,000 landslides reported in the state. Storms produced record rainfall levels and triggered landslides and debris flows throughout Oregon. Five fatalities and many injuries occurred during a November 1996 storm. Oregon is prone to landslides every year, with annual landslide losses estimated at \$10 million.

Decades before the 1996 landslides, the Land Conservation and Development Commission adopted 14 statewide planning goals in the 1970s. Goal 7 deals with areas subject to natural disasters and hazards, however, as with all of

the goals, Goal 7 is accompanied by “guidelines” that provide suggestion on how to apply the principles with no mandate. Under current statute there is no requirement for a comprehensive landslide hazard mitigation program.

House Bill 3412 A would require the Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) to coordinate with the Department of Forestry, and other state agencies and local governments, if needed, to develop a comprehensive landslide hazard assessment program. The bill requires DOGAMI to establish an advisory committee to aid and provide recommendations in the implementation of the landslide assessment program.