

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 06/03/15

Action: Do Pass With Amendments To The A-Eng Bill. (Printed B-Eng.)

Meeting Dates: 04/27, 06/03

Vote:

Yeas: 3 - Dembrow, Edwards, Prozanski

Nays: 1 - Thomsen

Exc: 1 - Olsen

Prepared By: Beth Reiley, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Defines large commercial event as a gathering that has an organizer, is held for purpose of shared or common activity or experience, has more than 50 individuals participating or more than 15 motor vehicles present, and continues or is scheduled to continue for more than four consecutive hours. 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 any 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:

- Examples of large, unpermitted raves occurring in state forests
- Concerns with public safety, law enforcement, fire damage and resource damage
- Increase in large commercial events on state forestlands over last five years

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE 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 (ODF) manages roughly 821,000 acres of forestlands, primarily concentrated in six large state forests. State forestlands are managed by ODF 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 2453B would make conducting large commercial events on state forests subject to review for potential impacts and permit requirements.