

# House Bill 2455

Introduced and printed pursuant to House Rule 12.00. Pre-session filed (at the request of Governor John A. Kitzhaber, M.D., for State Forestry Department)

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Extends privilege taxes on merchantable forest products harvested on forestlands.  
Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to forest products harvest taxation; amending ORS 321.015; prescribing an effective date;  
3 and providing for revenue raising that requires approval by a three-fifths majority.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1.** ORS 321.015 is amended to read:

6 321.015. (1) For the calendar years beginning January 1, [2014] **2016**, and January 1, [2015]  
7 **2017**, there is levied a privilege tax of [84.39] \_\_\_\_\_ cents per thousand feet, board measure, upon  
8 taxpayers for the privilege of harvesting of all merchantable forest products harvested on  
9 forestlands. Subject to ORS 321.145, the proceeds of the tax shall be transferred as provided in ORS  
10 321.152 (2) to the Forest Research and Experiment Account for use for the forest resource research,  
11 experimentation and studies described in ORS 526.215 and for the Forest Research Laboratory es-  
12 tablished under ORS 526.225.

13 (2) Except as provided in ORS 477.760, in addition to the tax levied by subsection (1) of this  
14 section, there is levied a forest products harvest tax upon taxpayers of 62.5 cents per thousand feet,  
15 board measure, for the privilege of harvesting all merchantable forest products harvested on  
16 forestlands for the payment of benefits related to fire suppression as provided in ORS 321.005 to  
17 321.185, 321.560 to 321.600 and 477.440 to 477.460.

18 (3) For the calendar years beginning January 1, [2014] **2016**, and January 1, [2015] **2017**, in ad-  
19 dition to the taxes levied under subsections (1) and (2) of this section, there is levied a privilege tax  
20 upon taxpayers for the privilege of harvesting all merchantable forest products harvested on  
21 forestlands in the amount of [97.27] \_\_\_\_\_ cents per thousand feet, board measure, for the purpose  
22 of administering the Oregon Forest Practices Act in an amount not to exceed 40 percent of the total  
23 expenditures approved by the Legislative Assembly for this purpose, including salary adjustments  
24 approved by the Legislative Assembly for fiscal years [2014 and 2015] **2016 and 2017**.

25 (4) For the calendar years beginning January 1, [2014] **2016**, and January 1, [2015] **2017**, in ad-  
26 dition to the taxes levied by subsections (1) to (3) of this section, there is levied a privilege tax of  
27 [10] \_\_\_\_\_ cents per thousand feet, board measure, upon taxpayers for the privilege of harvesting  
28 all merchantable forest products harvested on forestlands. Subject to ORS 321.145, the proceeds of  
29 the tax shall be transferred as provided in ORS 321.152 (5) to the subaccount established pursuant  
30 to ORS 351.681 for use by Oregon State University for the purpose of making investments in pro-  
31 fessional forestry education at the College of Forestry.

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted.  
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 (5) Subject to subsection (6) of this section, the taxes shall be measured by and be applicable to  
2 each per thousand feet, board measure, on the total quantity of forest products harvested in this  
3 state measured by use of any log scale which is or may be in general use in the logging industry  
4 and which is designed to measure total volume of merchantable forest products in board feet. How-  
5 ever, if the Department of Revenue finds that the scale used by any taxpayer in computing the taxes  
6 due under ORS 321.005 to 321.185 and 321.560 to 321.600 does not accurately reflect the total  
7 quantity of merchantable forest products harvested by the taxpayer, it may require the taxpayer to  
8 adopt another log scale in general use in the industry which in the department's opinion will accu-  
9 rately reflect merchantable harvest in board feet.

10 (6) The first 25,000 feet, board measure, of forest products harvested annually by any taxpayer  
11 during each calendar year shall be excluded from the total quantity of harvested forest products that  
12 constitutes the measure of the taxes under ORS 321.005 to 321.185 and 321.560 to 321.600.

13 **SECTION 2. This 2015 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2015**  
14 **regular session of the Seventy-eighth Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.**