

Enrolled
House Bill 2501

Sponsored by Representative WHITSETT; Representative MCLANE, Senator WHITSETT (Pre-session filed.)

CHAPTER

AN ACT

Relating to State Forester reporting of private property losses from fire; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 477.777.

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

SECTION 1. ORS 477.777 is amended to read:

477.777. (1) As part of the preparation of the budget forms submitted to the Oregon Department of Administrative Services pursuant to ORS 291.208 for the State Forestry Department, the State Forester shall prepare, in addition to any amounts budgeted for forest protection districts pursuant to ORS 477.205 to 477.281, a budget request for a General Fund appropriation for the following purposes:

(a) Providing funds for the purchase of emergency fire suppression costs insurance under ORS 477.775.

(b) Acquiring and placing centrally managed fire suppression resources for statewide use.

(c) Acquiring fast-mobilizing, short-term contingency resources to be used based on predictions of severe fire weather, widespread lightning events or serious resource shortage due to a heavy fire season in this state, in the western region of the United States or nationally.

(d) Enhancing forest protection district resources in cases where land productivity or other economic factors seriously limit the ability of the forester to perform fire protection responsibilities.

(e) Mitigating forest patrol assessment rates in cases where land productivity or other economic factors seriously limit the ability of the owners of forestlands in the forest protection district to comply with ORS 477.210 (1).

(2) The State Forester shall utilize critical discretion in the expenditure of the funds provided to the State Forestry Department pursuant to the separate budget request required under subsection (1) of this section.

(3) The State Forester shall report to the Emergency Board, each year, after the close of the fire season, on:

(a) The nature and severity of the fire season;

(b) The moneys expended on fire suppression;

(c) The balance remaining from the biennial appropriation; and

(d) Any matters arising out of the fire season that may require attention or warrant future consideration by the board or the Legislative Assembly.

(4) When reporting the nature and severity of the fire season under subsection (3) of this section, for each fire consuming 1,000 or more acres, the State Forester shall provide information regarding the resulting losses on private lands of timber, buildings, fencing and live-

stock and of grazing land capacity if the land is expected to be unavailable for two or more grazing seasons.

SECTION 2. The amendments to ORS 477.777 by section 1 of this 2015 Act apply to State Forester reports regarding fire seasons that begin on or after the effective date of this 2015 Act.

Passed by House March 2, 2015

.....
Timothy G. Sekerak, Chief Clerk of House

.....
Tina Kotek, Speaker of House

Passed by Senate June 10, 2015

.....
Peter Courtney, President of Senate

Received by Governor:

.....M,....., 2015

Approved:

.....M,....., 2015

.....
Kate Brown, Governor

Filed in Office of Secretary of State:

.....M,....., 2015

.....
Jeanne P. Atkins, Secretary of State