

SB 1017 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

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Meeting Dates: 3/29

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs State Forester to establish guidelines for wildfire buffer zones to provide defensible space on lands in forestland-urban interface areas. At a minimum, guidelines must provide for removal of all trees within 300 feet of any residential structure. Establishes that guidelines are in addition to other applicable minimum standards under state law to minimize or mitigate fire hazards or risks (ORS 477.059). Allows a landowner in forestland-urban interface to file a certificate of compliance with wildlife buffer guidelines. Allows State Forester to inspect land during reasonable hours to verify certificate information.

Allows a tax credit of ___ percent of forest protection district assessment paid to a taxpayer who files a certificate of compliance with wildlife buffer zone guidelines.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Replaces measure. Requires State Forester to establish guidelines for wildlife buffer zones that provide defensible space on lands in the forestland-urban interface. Authorizes State Forester to establish vegetation removal or limitation provisions under guidelines. Requires that guidelines, at a minimum, provide for the thinning of trees within the lesser of (1) 300 feet from residential structures or (2) the buffer zone distance from such structures under minimum standards adopted by Board of Forestry. Specifies guidelines requiring vegetation removal, limitation, or thinning do not apply in certain areas or to establish or maintain buffer zone of another property.

Allows a tax credit of ___ percent of forest protection district assessment paid to a taxpayer who files a certificate of compliance with wildlife buffer zone guidelines.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Forestland-Urban Interface Fire Protection Act was passed in 1997 to require property owners in identified forestland-urban interface areas to reduce excess vegetation around structures and along driveways. Forestland-urban interface lands include lands within a forest protection district that have been divided into lots for residential development. A forestland-urban interface area is composed of groups of homes; the minimum grouping is four homes per 40 acres. Each Oregon county convenes a forestland urban interface classification committee composed of three county-appointed members, one appointed by the state fire marshal, and one by the State Forester. The committee conducts its identification and classification tasks on a five-year cycle.

Senate Bill 1017 would require the State Forester to establish guidelines for wildfire buffer zones to provide defensible space on lands in forestland-urban interface areas and create a tax credit for landowners who file a certificate of compliance with the buffer guidelines. These guidelines would be in addition to requirements under the 1997 Oregon Forestland-Urban Interface Fire Protection Act.