

House Bill 4109

Sponsored by Representative SMITH DB, Senator ROBLAN; Representatives BARRETO, NOBLE, OLSON, SPRENGER, STARK, WITT (Pre-session filed.)

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**.

Directs Department of Environmental Quality and State Forestry Department to study opportunities for state actions to promote carbon sequestration and to include in study consideration of regional approaches for reducing greenhouse gas emissions through carbon sequestration.

Requires departments to report to interim committee of Legislative Assembly related to natural resources by September 15, 2019.

Sunset January 2, 2020.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to carbon sequestration.

3 Whereas Oregon produces 0.14 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions; and

4 Whereas over 60 percent of the greenhouse gas emissions from Oregon are sequestered in the
5 form of carbon stored within our forests; and

6 Whereas over 30 percent of the carbon stored within our forests is released in the form of
7 greenhouse gas emissions from wildfire and decay; and

8 Whereas industry is reducing greenhouse gas emissions through compliance with Oregon's
9 renewable portfolio standards, through meeting the requirement for electric companies to eliminate,
10 by January 1, 2030, coal-fired resources from their allocation of electricity and through improving
11 carbon capture and sequestration efforts in accordance with the state's existing greenhouse gas re-
12 duction goals; and

13 Whereas wood from sustainably managed forests is renewable, recyclable and the primary ele-
14 ment in thousands of products that are used every day; and

15 Whereas protecting Oregon's forests includes responsible forest management that not only de-
16 creases fire risks and increases forest health but that also provides a thriving forest sector economy,
17 abundant recreational opportunities and healthy forest ecosystems; and

18 Whereas burning timber and brush from wildfires expel fine particles into the air at a rate three
19 times as high as levels cited in emissions inventories by the United States Environmental Protection
20 Agency; and

21 Whereas emissions from Oregon forest fires in the year 2007 produced enough greenhouse gases
22 to equal to 11.1 million cars driven all year; and

23 Whereas comprehensive forestry treatment prescriptions designed to restore sustainable eco-
24 logical conditions, including but not limited to logging, thinning and prescribed fire, can move 90
25 percent of treated acres into a low-hazard condition; and

26 Whereas the thinning of forests can reduce wildfire severity by up to 60 percent and remove
27 up to 400 percent more carbon from the air than leaving forests alone; and

28 Whereas wood from Oregon forestland regulated by the state's forest protection laws can count

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 toward the United States Green Building Council’s Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design
2 (LEED) certification for green building projects; and

3 Whereas one cubic meter of wood stores nearly a metric ton, about 2,200 pounds of carbon
4 dioxide; and

5 Whereas about half the dry weight of wood is carbon, which remains stored in wood products
6 used to construct houses, apartments and office buildings, and helps offset carbon emissions that are
7 contributing to changing climate conditions; and

8 Whereas timber construction reduces the overall carbon footprint of a building project, both
9 through carbon storage and by substituting wood for more energy-intensive materials; and

10 Whereas each one million board feet of timber harvested in Oregon creates or retains about 11
11 jobs in the forest sector, which is the sector responsible for nearly one-third of the economic base
12 in some rural counties; now, therefore,

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

14 **SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section:**

15 (a) “Carbon sequestration” means the long-term storage of carbon dioxide or other forms
16 of carbon.

17 (b) “Greenhouse gas” has the meaning given that term in ORS 468A.210.

18 (c) “Greenhouse gas cap-and-trade system” has the meaning given that term in ORS
19 468A.210.

20 (2) The Department of Environmental Quality and the State Forestry Department shall
21 coordinate to conduct a study on opportunities for state actions to promote carbon
22 sequestration. The study must evaluate opportunities that include, but need not be limited
23 to:

24 (a) Opportunities for providing incentives to industries to engage in carbon sequestration
25 and other activities to store carbon, including but not limited to opportunities for providing
26 tax incentives or tax credits to electric companies, natural gas utilities, transportation in-
27 dustry entities and other industries for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and engaging in
28 carbon capture and carbon sequestration efforts, to be used for job creation or carbon cap-
29 ture and carbon sequestration projects; and

30 (b) Other opportunities for capitalizing on carbon sequestration methods, such as natural
31 ecosystems carbon sequestration and carbon capture and storage technologies and other in-
32 dustrial carbon sequestration methods, to store carbon while also promoting economic de-
33 velopment and long-term job creation in this state within the market sectors engaged in
34 carbon sequestration efforts.

35 (3) The study required by this section shall include consideration of regional approaches,
36 other than adopting or participating in a greenhouse gas cap-and-trade system, for reducing
37 greenhouse gas emissions through carbon sequestration.

38 (4) The departments shall submit a report in the manner provided by ORS 192.245, which
39 may include recommendations for legislation, to an interim committee of the Legislative
40 Assembly related to natural resources no later than September 15, 2019.

41 **SECTION 2. Section 1 of this 2018 Act is repealed on January 2, 2020.**