

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**Measure: SB 337**80th Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2019 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office***Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official***

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Measure Description:

Requires State Forestry Department, State Department of Fish and Wildlife and Department of Transportation to enter into interagency agreement allowing use of State Department of Fish and Wildlife and Department of Transportation personnel to provide staffing assistance to State Forestry Department during fire season.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST), Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), Department of Forestry (ODF), Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT)

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Costs related to the measure are indeterminate at this time - See explanatory analysis.

Analysis:

The legislation directs the Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and the Department of Transportation (ODOT) to enter into interagency agreements with the Department of Forestry (ODF) to provide staffing assistance during fire season for all or part of one or more forest protection districts. The interagency agreement may include provisions for training, costs for employee time expended, staff duties, as well as functions and procedures for providing staff assistance. The interagency agreement must be in conformance with any applicable collective bargaining agreements and state personnel rules.

At this time, all the ramifications of this measure cannot be fully predicted due to the unknown outcome of the interagency agreement; however, this analysis will attempt to outline a few of the more significant factors that will drive the fiscal impacts associated with the legislation.

If ODFW and ODOT employees are working for ODF, then the workload that those employees would have otherwise been conducting at their home agency will be, to some extent, neglected. It is unknown if this workload can easily be caught back up or if overtime or additional staff hiring will be necessary to complete these tasks, or if the state will simply need to accept a greater level of deferred maintenance and diminished productivity from these agencies.

Training the ODFW and ODOT personnel will result in some measure of cost, however these costs will vary based on job function and when this training is conducted (i.e. during regular work hours, or in addition to). For example, staff could supplant regular work hours for training time therefore delaying regular workloads, or training could be done in addition to regular work hours and staff could be paid overtime.

While the interagency agreement will determine employee reimbursements, it is reasonable to consider additional costs associated with differential or hazard pay which will also contribute to additional liabilities in Public Employees Retirement System. Furthermore, the state could reasonably incur liabilities associated with staff injury or loss of life.

The Legislative Fiscal Office notes that having additional trained personnel available to ODF could conceivably make a difference in fire protection efforts and in certain circumstances lead to more expedient containment and potentially shorter fire lifecycles, which could ultimately contribute to decreased firefighting costs. This measure warrants a subsequent referral to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means for consideration of its budgetary impact.