

HB 2222 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

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Meeting Dates: 4/30, 5/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) to make annual report to Legislative Assembly regarding implementation and enforcement status of property notifications and certifications under the Oregon Forestland-Urban Interface Fire Protection Act. Requires that the report include: general information on progress toward completion of fire protection system and measures taken to ensure minimal cost and risk and maximum effectiveness and efficiency; specific information regarding community fire protection systems; and information regarding ODF actions to develop, administer, and enforce fire protection system. Requires that report include any recommendations for further legislative action. Requires that report be made no later than June 15 each year. Allows initial report to interim legislative committee no later than September 15, 2019. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

House vote: Passed. Ayes, 58; Excused, 2--Findley, Keny-Guyer

Minimal fiscal impact; no revenue impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- History of Forestland-Urban Interface Fire Protection Act
- Requirement for report to Legislature
- Sunriver community fuels reduction program/homeowner concerns

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In 1997, the Oregon Legislative Assembly passed the Oregon Forestland-Urban Interface Fire Protection Act. The Act declares that the State Board of Forestry and State Forester are to lead the statewide coordination of a forestland-urban interface fire protection system to provide fire protection, encourage property owners to minimize and mitigate fire hazard, and promote and encourage interaction at all levels of government and the private sector (ORS 477.023). The Act directs the State Board of Forestry to establish criteria for identifying and classifying forestland (ORS 477.027). The Act allows counties to establish a five-person classification committee (ORS 477.029) and requires forestland property owners to reduce excess vegetation, which may fuel a fire around homes and other structures.

House Bill 2222A would require the Oregon Department of Forestry to annually report to the Legislative Assembly regarding the implementation and enforcement status of the Oregon Forestland-Urban Interface Fire Protection Act.