

**SB 337 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources**

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**Action Date:** 03/28/19

**Action:** Do pass and requesting referral to Ways and Means.

**Vote:** 4-0-1-0

**Yeas:** 4 - Bentz, Dembrow, Prozanski, Roblan

**Exc:** 1 - Olsen

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

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**Meeting Dates:** 3/19, 3/28

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Directs the state Departments of Forestry (ODF), Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), and Transportation (ODOT) to enter into interagency agreements to allow the use of ODFW and ODOT personnel to provide staffing assistance to ODF as needed during any period when the State Forester has declared fire season for all or part of one or more forest protection districts. Allows agreement to include provisions for training ODFW and ODOT staff in performance of ODF staff duties, functions, and procedures. Directs ODFW and ODOT to bill ODF for reasonable costs of employee training and staffing assistance time. Requires any time for training and provision for staffing assistance to be in conformance with any applicable collective bargaining agreements and state personnel rules.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- All Department of Forestry (ODF) personnel may be used to fight fires and support fire suppression efforts during fire season; strain on other ODF programs
- Opportunities to share agency support personnel
- Time period required to close out accounting on a fire season

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Oregon Department of Forestry provides fire protection on approximately 16 million acres – primarily privately owned forestlands, but also state-owned and other public land, including west-side forests owned by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. Under ORS 477.505, the State Forester may designate the beginning of fire season when conditions of fire hazard exist in a forest protection district or any part of a district.

Senate Bill 337 would direct the state Departments of Forestry (ODF), Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), and Transportation (ODOT) to enter into interagency agreements to allow the use of ODFW and ODOT personnel to provide staffing assistance to ODF as needed during any period when the State Forester has declared fire season.