SB 694   STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

Action Date:	03/28/19
Action:	Do pass and refer to Ways and Means by prior reference.
Vote:	4-0-1-0
Yeas:	4 - Bentz, Dembrow, Prozanski, Roblan
Exc:	1 - Olsen
Fiscal:	Fiscal impact issued
Revenue:	No revenue impact
Prepared By:	Beth Patrino, LPRO Analyst
Meeting Dates:	3/19, 3/28

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:
Establishes the Task Force on Rural Fire Protection District Community Development (Task Force) to study and develop recommendations on ways to develop, enhance, or expand the ability of rural fire protection districts to use district assets to facilitate community development efforts following a natural disaster. Assigns responsibility for the appointment of 11 Task Force members with particular expertise to Senate President, Speaker of the House, and Governor. Directs Task Force to submit a report to an interim legislative committee related to local government no later than September 15, 2020. Assigns Oregon Military Department to provide staff support to the Task Force. Repeals Act on December 31, 2020. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:
*   Natural disasters may lead to people stranded in smaller community without support resources
*   Role of rural fire protection districts
*   Importance of volunteerism

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Rural fire protection districts (RFPDs) are authorized to levy property taxes to provide fire protection and other public safety services. RFPDs may contract for water services and facilities, emergency medical service equipment and services, law enforcement services, fire protection, road-lighting facilities and services, mutual communication systems, and regional oil and hazardous materials emergency response teams. They are governed by boards that report to the State Fire Marshal, and the State Fire Marshal cooperates in their formation and administration.

Senate Bill 694 would establish the Task Force on Rural Fire Protection District Community Development.