

**SB 1516 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Senate Committee On Wildfire Reduction and Recovery**

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**Prepared By:** Laura Kentnesse, LPRO Analyst

**Sub-Referral To:** Joint Committee On Ways and Means

**Meeting Dates:** 2/5

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Creates a program for the periodic review and modernization of the State Forestry Department (ODF) structure and programs to ensure effectiveness and efficiency. Specifies periodic review requirements. Allows modernization to include hiring, assigning, reassigning, classifying, or reclassifying wildfire personnel or support services personnel to promote recruitment, retention, and effective use of personnel. Requires the modernization program to ensure that programs are supplied with modern equipment in the amounts and types that ODF deems appropriate for response to actual or potential wildfire threats. Allows ODF to retain the services of third-party evaluators to identify, analyze, or make recommendations regarding the modernization of department structures and programs related to wildfire. Appropriates moneys for the biennium ending June 30, 2021, for converting seasonal positions into permanent full-time positions and for wildfire equipment resource needs. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

*REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.*

*FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.*

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

-1 Allows the State Forester to assess a surcharge of \$10.80 on each improved lot or parcel, which would be in addition to the surcharge levied when the unencumbered balance of the Oregon Forest Land Protection Fund (Fund) is less than \$22.5 million. Requires that surcharge moneys must be paid into the Fund, and may be expended under the modernization program for two administrative positions and up to 35 permanent full-time positions with duties to fight or prevent wildfire. Appropriates \$6 million General Fund moneys for the biennium ending June 30, 2021 to ODF: at least \$1 million for firefighting severity resources, and the remainder for the described positions. Eliminates emergency clause and prescribes an effective date for the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

**BACKGROUND:**

Senate Bill 1516 would create a program for the periodic review and modernization of the State Forestry Department structure and programs to ensure effectiveness and efficiency, and would appropriate moneys for converting seasonal positions into permanent full-time positions and for wildfire equipment resource needs.