

Legislative Fiscal Office

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Joint Committee on Ways and Means

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Rep. Greg Smith, House Co-Vice Chair

To: Capital Construction Subcommittee

From: Matt Stayner, Legislative Fiscal Office

Date: February 28, 2020

Subject: SB 1536 – Relating to wildfire
Work Session Recommendations

SB 1536 as amended by the -A8 amendment requires electric companies and consumer-owned utilities to have and operate in compliance with a risk-based wildfire protection plan. The Public Utilities Commission is required to periodically convene workshops to aid in the development and disseminate information, including best practices regarding risk-based wildfire protection. The measure allows insurers to create coverage provisions intended to encourage property owners to take actions to assist in wildfire protection and resilience.

The Oregon Department of Forestry is required to oversee the development and maintenance of a statewide map of wildfire risk at the property-ownership level. The department is also required to report on the development and operation of the map to the Legislature by February 1, 2021.

Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) is required to establish up to 15 wildfire reduction projects on either public or private forestlands by the end of the 2019-21 biennium. The department is to work in collaboration with Oregon State University Extension Service to identify strategic landscapes that are ready for treatment under the projects; with the measure providing specific guidance on project selection, including that the projects must be on lands currently approved for treatment projects under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The measure includes reporting requirements on the projects to both the Legislature and the Governor by December 1, 2020

A Land Use and Wildfire Policy Advisory Committee is required to be formed by the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD). The Oregon Department of Forestry and Oregon State University, in collaboration with DLCD is tasked with defining wildfire risk regions in the state and developing recommendations for reducing the wildfire risk in each region; reporting those recommendations to the Land Use and Wildfire Policy Advisory Committee.

The Oregon Department of Forestry, in collaboration with DLCD and the Land Use and Wildfire Policy Advisory Committee is to report to the Legislature by February 1, 2021 on possible means for implementation of the final recommendations produced by the Governor's Council on Wildfire Response.

A General Fund appropriation of \$350,000 to the Department of Land Conservation and Development for the establishment of a planner 4 position to provide analytical and policy analysis related to the bill and for costs associated with the Land Use and Wildfire Policy Advisory Committee.

A General Fund appropriation of \$24,438,279 to the Department of Forestry funds:

- The establishment of a GIS Specialist and an Operations and Policy Analyst for the development and management of the wildfire risk map, including \$100,000 for technology infrastructure investments.
- A limited-duration Operations and Policy Analyst to provide technical assistance, outreach and rulemaking
- Eight Limited-duration positions for the management, operational coordination, administration and reporting for the wildfire reduction projects and the extension of 30 seasonal positions to work on the projects.
- \$21 million of the appropriation is for contracted work on the projects.

Recommended Changes

LFO recommends adoption of the -A8 amendment.

MOTION: I move adoption of the -A8 amendment to SB 1536. (VOTE)

Budget Notes

#1 Budget Note: Wildfire smoke mitigation

The Oregon Department of Forestry, The Department of Environmental Quality, The Oregon Health Authority, and the Oregon Housing and Community Services Department are directed to create recommendations describing how existing programs can be leveraged to support the mitigation of the effects of wildfire smoke.

Accept LFO Recommendation:

MOTION: I move the LFO recommendation on Budget Notes. (VOTE)

Final Subcommittee Action

LFO recommends that SB 1536, as amended by the -A8 amendment, to be moved to the Ways and Means Full Committee.

MOTION: I move SB 1536, as amended, to the Full Committee with a do pass recommendation. (VOTE)

Carriers

Full Committee: _____

House Floor: _____

Senate Floor: _____