

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

SB 1536
Relating to wildfires

SB 1536 requires electric companies and consumer-owned utilities to have, and to operate in compliance with, a risk-based wildfire protection plan. The Public Utility Commission is required to periodically convene workshops to aid utilities in the development and dissemination of 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 Department of Forestry is required to oversee the development and maintenance of a statewide map of wildfire risk at the property-ownership level, and to report on the development and operation of the map to the Legislature by February 1st, 2021.

Forestry 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. The measure includes reporting requirements on the projects to both the Legislature and the Governor.

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

The Department of Forestry, in collaboration with DLCD and the Land Use and Wildfire Policy Advisory Committee, is to report to the Legislature by February 1st, 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 and a General Fund appropriation of \$24,438,279 to the Department of Forestry is included in the bill.

The Subcommittee recommended a budget note directing the Department of Forestry, Department of Environmental Quality, Oregon Health Authority, and Housing and Community Services Department to create recommendations describing how existing programs can be leveraged to support the mitigation of the effects of wildfire smoke.

The Capital Construction Subcommittee recommends SB 1536 be amended by the –A8 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.