

HB 4166 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Rules

Action Date: 02/18/20

Action: Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 7-0-0-0

Yeas: 7 - Drazan, Fahey, Holvey, Nosse, Smith Warner, Sprenger, Zika

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Melissa Leoni, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/18, 2/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Authorizes the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to contract with an independent economist to: (1) collect data and other information on the actual costs of and source of moneys used for wildfire protection and suppression on lands protected by the State Forestry Department; (2) identify ways to improve tracking and substantiate wildfire protection and suppression costs and funding sources, including in-kind contributions; (3) compare Oregon wildfire protection and suppression costs and funding sources with comparable states; (4) identify regional differences in wildfire protection and suppression costs and funding sources; and (5) provide data and information in a format to enable an informed discussion on the equitable allocation of wildfire protection and suppression costs and the value of wildfire protection and suppression toward the protection of private and public assets. Requires contracted economist to collaborate with project team or advisory group jointly appointed by the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House and convened by DAS. Specifies team or group membership and required expertise. Requires economist and project team to report on findings and recommendations to Legislative Assembly and Governor's Council on Wildfire Response by March 1, 2021. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Connection to study required by Senate Bill 1536 (2020) through report to Wildfire Response Council
- Including in-kind landowner contributions and 2008 Department of Forestry estimate of the in-kind value of \$13.6 million annually
- Length of time needed for study and timeline overlap with fire season

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Clarifies that study includes appropriate in-kind contributions to wildfire protection and suppression costs and funding. Eliminates legislative members on project team or advisory group. Changes reporting date to March 1, 2021.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon Governor Kate Brown created the Governor's Council on Wildfire Response by executive order in January of 2019. The Council was tasked with reviewing Oregon's current model for wildfire prevention, preparedness, and response, and analyzing whether the current model is sustainable given increasing wildfire risks. The Council met regularly for nine months and formed three active subcommittees that focused on mitigation, fire suppression, and adaptation and recovery. The product of the Council's extensive work was a final report that concluded that some or all of the current models are not sufficient to ensure Oregon is prepared for increasingly severe wildfire seasons; the report proposed 37 recommendations.

HB 4166 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Bill 4166-A authorizes DAS to contract with an independent economist to study, in consultation with an expert project team or advisory group, the actual costs of and source of funding used for wildfire protection and suppression on lands protected by the State Forestry Department and to report on their findings and recommendations by March 1, 2021.