A-Engrossed

Senate Bill 1516

Ordered by the Senate February 14
Including Senate Amendments dated February 14

Printed pursuant to Senate Interim Rule 213.28 by order of the President of the Senate in conformance with pre-session filing rules, indicating neither advocacy nor opposition on the part of the President (at the request of Senate Interim Committee on Wildfire Prevention and Recovery)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure.

Creates program for periodic review and modernization of State Forestry Department structure and programs to ensure effectiveness and efficiency, including but not limited to department programs relating to wildfire.
Requires State Forester to impose assessment on certain tax lots. Provides that assessment moneys may be used to carry out certain actions under modernization program.
Appropriates moneys for biennium ending June 30, 2021, for carrying out certain actions under modernization program.
[*Declares emergency, effective on passage.*]
Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

1   **A BILL FOR AN ACT**

2   Relating to State Forestry Department modernization; and prescribing an effective date.

3   **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4   <u>SECTION 1.</u> **(1) The State Forestry Department shall implement and administer a pro-**

5   **gram to periodically review and modernize the structure and processes of the department**

6   **as necessary to ensure department ability to adequately meet changing demands for wildfire**

7   **prevention and wildfire response in this state, and to reduce the diversion of department**

8   **resources from other programs to wildfire prevention and response. The periodic review shall**

9   **include, but need not be limited to, a comparison of department structure and processes with**

10   **the resource needs for adequate wildfire prevention efforts, adequate response to actual or**

11   **potential wildfire incidents and adequately carrying out other department programs concur-**

12   **rently with department wildfire programs. The comparison must include, but need not be**

13   **limited to, the efficiency and effectiveness of department structure and processes regarding**

14   **wildfire fighting personnel and equipment resources, reduction of the likelihood or likely se-**

15   **verity of wildfires, anticipation and addressing of actual or potential changes to resource**

16   **needs and carrying out other department programs concurrently with wildfire programs.**

17   **(2) Subject to ORS chapters 240 and 243, the department shall periodically modernize the**

18   **department structure and programs as the department deems appropriate to improve effi-**

19   **ciency and effectiveness with regard to wildfires. Modernization of programs and structures**

20   **with regard to wildfires:**

21   **(a) May include, but not be limited to:**

22   **(A) Hiring, assigning, reassigning, classifying or reclassifying personnel who are trained**

23   **to fight or prevent wildfires to create conditions that promote the recruitment, retention and**

1 effective use of those personnel; and

2 (B) Hiring, assigning, reassigning, classifying or reclassifying personnel not described in

3 subparagraph (A) of this paragraph as the department deems appropriate to provide support

4 services to personnel engaged in fighting or preventing wildfires, support reductions in the

5 likelihood or likely severity of wildfires or enable the carrying out of other department pro-

6 grams concurrently with wildfire programs.

7 (b) Shall ensure that:

8 (A) Wildfire programs are supplied with modern equipment in amounts and types that

9 the department deems appropriate for responding to actual or potential threats of wildfire

10 in this state; and

11 (B) Equipment assignments within this state are modernized as necessary to address

12 changing needs, conditions and equipment resources.

13 (c) Shall include efforts to develop or improve arrangements with insurers and other

14 private parties to encourage landowner cooperation in reducing the likelihood or likely se-

15 verity of wildfires.

16 (3) The department may retain the services of third party evaluators to identify, analyze

17 or make recommendations regarding the modernization of all or part of department struc-

18 tures and programs regarding wildfire, including but not limited to identifying, analyzing and

19 making recommendations regarding possible funding sources for meeting wildfire personnel

20 or equipment resource needs, wildfire prevention needs and support personnel needs.

21 SECTION 2. Section 3 of this 2020 Act is added to and made a part of ORS 477.205 to

22 477.281.

23 SECTION 3. (1) Under the modernization program described in section 1 of this 2020 Act,

24 in addition to any other assessment prescribed by ORS 477.205 to 477.281, the State Forester

25 shall assess $10.80 on each tax lot assessed under ORS 477.205 to 477.281.

26 (2) Assessment moneys collected pursuant to subsection (1) of this section:

27 (a) Must be paid into the State Forestry Department Account; and

28 (b) May be expended under the modernization program described in section 1 of this 2020

29 Act for two administrative positions and up to 35 permanent full-time positions that have

30 duties including, but not limited to, fighting or preventing wildfires.

31 SECTION 4. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-

32 ated to the State Forestry Department, for the biennium ending June 30, 2021, out of the

33 General Fund, the amount of $6,000,000. Of that amount, under the modernization program

34 described in section 1 of this 2020 Act, at least $1,000,000 must be expended for firefighting

35 severity resources, and the remainder must be expended for two administrative positions and

36 up to 35 permanent full-time positions that have duties including, but not limited to, fighting

37 or preventing wildfires.

38 SECTION 5. This 2020 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2020

39 regular session of the Eightieth Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.

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