

Senate Bill 1516

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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 **as introduced**.

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.

Appropriates moneys for biennium ending June 30, 2021, for carrying out certain actions under modernization program.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to State Forestry Department modernization; and declaring an emergency.

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

4 **SECTION 1.** (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 concu-**
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**
24 **effective use of those personnel; and**

25 **(B) Hiring, assigning, reassigning, classifying or reclassifying personnel not described in**
26 **subparagraph (A) of this paragraph as the department deems appropriate to provide support**
27 **services to personnel engaged in fighting or preventing wildfires, support reductions in the**
28 **likelihood or likely severity of wildfires or enable the carrying out of other department pro-**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 **grams concurrently with wildfire programs.**

2 **(b) Shall ensure that:**

3 **(A) Wildfire programs are supplied with modern equipment in amounts and types that**
4 **the department deems appropriate for responding to actual or potential threats of wildfire**
5 **in this state; and**

6 **(B) Equipment assignments within this state are modernized as necessary to address**
7 **changing needs, conditions and equipment resources.**

8 **(c) Shall include efforts to develop or improve arrangements with insurers and other**
9 **private parties to encourage landowner cooperation in reducing the likelihood or likely se-**
10 **verity of wildfires.**

11 **(3) The department may retain the services of third party evaluators to identify, analyze**
12 **or make recommendations regarding the modernization of all or part of department struc-**
13 **tures and programs regarding wildfire, including but not limited to identifying, analyzing and**
14 **making recommendations regarding possible funding sources for meeting wildfire personnel**
15 **or equipment resource needs, wildfire prevention needs and support personnel needs.**

16 **SECTION 2. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-**
17 **ated to the State Forestry Department, for the biennium ending June 30, 2021, out of the**
18 **General Fund, the amount of \$_____, which may be expended under the modernization**
19 **program described in section 1 of this 2020 Act for converting not more than 50 seasonal**
20 **positions for personnel who are trained to fight or prevent wildfires into permanent full-time**
21 **positions that have duties including, but not be limited to, the fighting or prevention of**
22 **wildfires.**

23 **SECTION 3. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-**
24 **ated to the State Forestry Department, for the biennium ending June 30, 2021, out of the**
25 **General Fund, the amount of \$_____, which may be expended under the modernization**
26 **program described in section 1 of this 2020 Act to fill equipment resource needs related to**
27 **wildfires, including but not limited to aviation assets.**

28 **SECTION 4. This 2020 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**
29 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2020 Act takes effect**
30 **on its passage.**

31 _____