

SB 335 -3 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery

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Meeting Dates: 3/17

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires the Oregon Department of Forestry to study and make recommendations regarding the operation of the Oregon Board of Forestry to a natural resources committee of the Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2022. Sunsets January 2, 2023. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-3 Replaces the measure. Changes the requirement that not more than three appointed members of the Oregon Board of Forestry (Board) may receive any significant portion of their income directly from the forest products industry, to a limitation that not more than two members of the Board may have received an average of \$1,000 or more in the preceding five years, directly or indirectly, from the forest products industry. Requires that at least one of those two members must have received those industry moneys exclusively from small woodlands of not more than 5,000 acres, provided there are two Board members that are recipients of industry moneys. Allows for all Board members serving on January 1, 2022, to continue to serve on the Board until the end of their current term. On and after January 1, 2022, requires the Governor to make Board appointments and reappointments consistent with this Act. Authorizes the Governor, rather than the Board, to appoint the State Forester, fix the compensation of the State Forester, and approve the State Forester's appointment of a Deputy State Forester, assistant state foresters, and other department employees. Eliminates existing Forest Practice Committees for each of the three forest regions by January 1, 2022 and repeals associated forest practice rule review duties, and authorizes the Board to establish a work group to research, assess, or provide recommendations on issues and questions related to Oregon's statutory forest policies.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Board of Forestry (Board) is a seven-member citizen board appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the senate. At least one appointed member must reside in each of the state's three major forest regions, the northern, southern, and eastern regions. No more than three appointed members may receive any significant portion of their income directly from the forest products industry. The term of office for Board members is four years and no member may serve more than two consecutive full terms. The State Forester is appointed by the Board and serves as secretary to the Board. The mission of the Board is to lead Oregon in implementing policies and programs that promote sustainable management of Oregon's public and private forests. Their primary responsibilities are to supervise all matters of forest policy within Oregon, appoint the State Forester, adopt rules regulating forest practices, and provide general supervision of the State Forester's duties in managing the Oregon Department of Forestry.

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Each of the state's three forest regions contains a Forest Practice Committee (Committee) that consists of nine members, a majority of whom have to reside in the region. Members must be qualified by education or natural resource management experience, and at least two-thirds of the Committee must be private landowners, private timber owners, or authorized representatives of these private owners who regularly engage in operations. Committees are appointed by the Board for three-year terms, and the State Forester designates Oregon Department of Forestry staff to serve as each Committee's secretary. The Committees advise the Board on current forestry issues and forest management approaches, including the review of forest practice rules.

Senate Bill 335 would require the Oregon Department of Forestry to study and make recommendations regarding the operation of the Oregon Board of Forestry to a natural resources committee of the Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2022.