

HB 3160 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Management

Prepared By: Cassie Passon, Counsel

Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes Oregon Wildfire Preparedness and Community Protection Fund and lists appropriation percentages to State Fire Marshal, State Forestry Department and Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. Directs State Fire Marshal, State Forestry Department and Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board to make expenditures from fund for various activities related to restoration, protection and recovery from wildfires. Requires State Fire Marshal, the State Forester and executive director of the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board to submit a joint report to Governor and Legislative Assembly with oversight over forestry issues that details the agencies' activities no later than December 31 of each year. Requires every insurer each year to remit to Director of Department of Consumer and Business Services surcharge of \$10 for each policy of insurance that is casualty insurance or property insurance. Sets \$1000 minimum insurer must remit to director. Permits insurer each year to recoup from insureds amount insurer remitted to director. Requires director to deposit proceeds of surcharge into Oregon Wildfire Preparedness and Community Protection Fund.

Subsequent referral to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon's 2020 fire season saw over 2000 fires with 1,221,324 acres burned which is close to double the 10-year average for acres burned. Four thousand twenty one homes were destroyed and 14 more damaged in 21 Labor Day fires alone. The fires caused 500,000 Oregonians to be under one of three evacuation levels, with 40,000 having to evacuate from their homes. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has approved close to \$96 million in disaster assistance to Oregonians.

House Bill 3160 establishes the Oregon Wildfire Preparedness and Community Protection Fund and directs the State Fire Marshal, the State Forestry Department and the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board to make expenditures from the fund for various activities related to the restoration, protection and recovery from wildfires.