

SB 605 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Frederick

Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery

Action Date: 03/31/21

Action: Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 4-1-0-0

Yeas: 4 - Golden, Kennemer, Patterson, Prozanski

Nays: 1 - Heard

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/10, 3/3, 3/31

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires a county board, upon request by a rural fire protection district (RFPD), to annex into the district lands that are either within seven road miles of a district fire station or that are brought within seven miles of a station by a new road, and that are not subject to RFPD tax assessment. Requires the county board to establish and implement a process for the annexation. Authorizes a RFPD to levy certain taxes and fees only to annexed lands that are improved, and not to those that are unimproved. Clarifies that lands unimproved at annexation, that are improved after annexation, may be subject to RFPD tax assessment and fees beginning July 1 following the calendar year in which the lands are improved. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Role of rural fire protection districts (RFPDs)
- Protection for properties that do not pay for service and associated collection process
- Annexation currently an optional process
- Onerous petition process for annexation into an RFPD
- Optimal distance from RFPD fire station for district boundary establishment

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND:

Rural Fire Protection Districts (RFPDs) are special districts created to provide fire protection in rural areas of Oregon. There currently are over 200 RFPDs in the state. Counties have the authority to determine the territory included in an RFPD, subject to restrictions concerning territory within a city, water supply district, certain forestlands, railroad rights of way, and ocean shores, and subject to special district petition, hearing, election, and notice requirements.

Senate Bill 605 A would require a county board, upon request by a rural fire protection district, to annex into the district lands within seven road miles of a district fire station, and would authorize the district to levy certain taxes and fees only to annexed lands that are improved.