

## HB 3160 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Management

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**Action Date:** 04/13/21

**Action:** Without recommendation as to passage, be referred to Revenue, and then to Ways and Means by prior reference.

**Vote:** 5-1-0-0

**Yeas:** 5 - Evans, Grayber, Lewis, Meek, Wright

**Nays:** 1 - Wallan

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** Revenue impact issued

**Prepared By:** Cassie Passon, Counsel

**Meeting Dates:** 3/18, 4/13

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#### 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 annual report by December 31 to Governor and Legislative Assembly detailing the agencies' activities. Requires every insurer to remit \$10 surcharge annually to Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS) for each casualty insurance or property insurance policy. Sets \$1,000 minimum remittance. Permits insurers to recover remittance amount from insureds. Requires DCBS to deposit proceeds into Oregon Wildfire Preparedness and Community Protection Fund.

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Risk from fires
- Cost of damage, response, clean up
- Forest thinning
- Funding
- Federal land management
- Insurance rates
- Financial solutions to wildfire prevention and intervention
- Matching funds requirements
- Interconnectivity of natural resources
- Last insurance tax rate increase
- Retaliatory taxes on insurers
- Number of insurers based in Oregon and Washington
- Progressive versus regressive tax
- Lack of penalties for nonpayment of tax
- Agency plans for funds

#### EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

#### BACKGROUND:

The State Fire Marshal (SFM) is located within the Department of State Police. It was established in 1917 and its current mission is to protect Oregonians and their property, as well as the environment, from both hazardous

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materials and fires.

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) is the state agency that manages Oregon's forests. ODF aims to protect Oregon's forests by promoting stewardship and investing in their environmental and economic sustainability.

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) awards grants to care for Oregon's waterways. OWEB originated in 1987 with the Legislative Assembly's creation of the Governor's Watershed Enhancement Board. OWEB uses federal dollars, lottery funds, and revenue from specialty salmon license plates to fund the grant program and make distributions to landowners for projects that care for the rivers and natural areas on their property.

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