

House Bill 2794

Sponsored by Representative SMITH DB; Representatives LEIF, ZIKA (Presession filed.)

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 Land Use and Wildfire Policy Advisory Committee. Sunsets advisory committee July 1, 2022.

Requires State Forestry Department, Oregon State University and Department of Land Conservation and Development to conduct study of regional wildfire risk within state.

Requires departments and advisory committee to report to interim committee of Legislative Assembly no later than February 1, 2022, regarding possible means for implementing final recommendations produced by Governor's Council on Wildfire Response. Requires inclusion of regional wildfire risk information in report.

Authorizes assignment of council to assist state and local agencies and officials regarding implementation of wildfire risk reduction programs.

Requires council to report to Legislative Assembly no later than October 31, 2021, with detailed recommendations regarding sustainable financing model for funding comprehensive wildfire strategy.

Requires State Department of Energy to commission study of feasibility of using materials from wildfire fuel reduction projects for renewable energy generation. Requires appointment of advisory committee to assist with study. Requires study to be completed by January 15, 2022.

Appropriates moneys to Department of Land Conservation and Development, State Forestry Department, Oregon State University and State Department of Energy for 2021-2023 biennium to carry out Act.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to wildfires; and declaring an emergency.

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

LAND USE AND WILDFIRE POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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7 **SECTION 1. (1) The Director of the Department of Land Conservation and Development,**
8 **in consultation with counties and cities, shall organize a Land Use and Wildfire Policy Advi-**
9 **sory Committee. The committee shall consist of members appointed as described in sub-**
10 **sections (2) to (5) of this section.**

11 **(2) The director and the State Forester, in consultation with counties and cities, shall**
12 **jointly appoint the following to be voting members of the committee:**

13 **(a) One member who is a representative of a city government serving a population of less**
14 **than 10,000.**

15 **(b) One member who is a representative of a city government serving a population of**
16 **10,000 or more but less than 25,000.**

17 **(c) One member who is a representative of a city government serving a population of**
18 **25,000 or more.**

19 **(d) One member who is a representative of a county government serving a population of**
20 **less than 30,000.**

21 **(e) One member who is a representative of a county government serving a population of**

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 **30,000 or more but less than 100,000.**

2 (f) **One member who is a representative of a county government serving a population of**
3 **100,000 or more.**

4 (g) **One member who is a city land use planning director.**

5 (h) **One member who is a county land use planning director.**

6 (i) **One member who is a representative of a utility company.**

7 (j) **One member who is a representative of environmental interests.**

8 (k) **One member who is a representative of special districts.**

9 (L) **One member who is a representative of farming landowners.**

10 (m) **One member who is a representative of ranching landowners.**

11 (n) **One member who is a representative of realty interests.**

12 (o) **One member who is a representative of land and housing development firms.**

13 (p) **One member who is a representative of citizen land use planning organizations.**

14 (q) **One member who is a representative of state or regional land use planning organiza-**
15 **tions.**

16 (r) **One member who is a representative of public health interests.**

17 (s) **One member who is a representative of small forestland owners.**

18 (t) **One member who is a representative of large forestland owners.**

19 (u) **One member who is a representative of economic development organizations.**

20 (v) **One member who is a representative of federally recognized Indian tribes.**

21 (w) **One member who is a representative of the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association.**

22 (x) **Additional members as determined by the director in consultation with counties and**
23 **cities.**

24 (3) **The director and the State Forester shall make the joint appointments under sub-**
25 **section (2) of this section from nominations submitted by entities related to the represented**
26 **interest or entities. The related entities for appointments:**

27 (a) **Under subsection (2)(a), (b), (c) and (g) of this section is the League of Oregon Cities.**

28 (b) **Under subsection (2)(d), (e), (f) and (h) of this section is the Association of Oregon**
29 **Counties.**

30 (c) **Under subsection (2)(i) of this section is any one or more of the investor-owned util-**
31 **ities and consumer-owned utilities in this state.**

32 (d) **Under subsection (2)(j) of this section is the Oregon League of Conservation Voters.**

33 (e) **Under subsection (2)(k) of this section is the Special Districts Association of Oregon.**

34 (f) **Under subsection (2)(L) of this section is the Oregon Farm Bureau.**

35 (g) **Under subsection (2)(m) of this section is the Oregon Cattlemen's Association.**

36 (h) **Under subsection (2)(n) of this section is the Oregon Association of Realtors.**

37 (i) **Under subsection (2)(o) of this section is the Oregon Home Builders Association.**

38 (j) **Under subsection (2)(p) of this section is the Oregon Property Owners Association.**

39 (k) **Under subsection (2)(q) of this section is 1000 Friends of Oregon.**

40 (L) **Under subsection (2)(r) of this section is the Oregon Health Authority.**

41 (m) **Under subsection (2)(s) of this section is the Oregon Small Woodlands Association.**

42 (n) **Under subsection (2)(t) of this section is the Oregon Forest & Industries Council.**

43 (o) **Under subsection (2)(u) of this section is Business Oregon.**

44 (p) **Under subsection (2)(v) of this section is one or more of the tribal governing bodies**
45 **for Indian tribes in this state.**

1 (q) Under subsection (2)(w) of this section is the State Fire Marshal.

2 (4) In addition to the members described under subsection (2) of this section, the fol-
 3 lowing shall serve as nonvoting members of the committee:

4 (a) One member appointed by the State Forester.

5 (b) One member appointed by the State Fire Marshal.

6 (c) One member appointed by the Director of the Oregon Health Authority.

7 (d) One member appointed by the Environmental Justice Task Force.

8 (e) One member appointed by the director of the Institute for Natural Resources.

9 (f) One member appointed by the Director of the Department of Land Conservation and
 10 Development.

11 (g) One member appointed by the Director of the Department of Consumer and Business
 12 Services from the Division of Financial Regulation of the Department of Consumer and
 13 Business Services.

14 (h) One member appointed by the Director of the Department of Consumer and Business
 15 Services from department staff having expertise in building codes.

16 (5)(a) The President of the Senate, in consultation with the Senate Minority Leader, shall
 17 appoint two members from among the members of the Senate to be nonvoting members of
 18 the committee. The two members appointed under this paragraph may not be from the same
 19 political party.

20 (b) The Speaker of the House of Representatives, in consultation with the House Minority
 21 Leader, shall appoint two members from among the members of the House of Represen-
 22 tatives to be nonvoting members of the committee. The two members appointed under this
 23 paragraph may not be from the same political party.

24 (6) Members of the Legislative Assembly appointed to the committee are nonvoting
 25 members of the committee and may act in an advisory capacity only.

26 (7) The members of the committee shall elect a voting member to be chair of the com-
 27 mittee and a voting member to be vice-chair, with all powers appropriate to those offices.

28 (8) The committee shall meet at times and places determined by the chair or by the Di-
 29 rector of the Department of Land Conservation and Development. A majority of the voting
 30 members shall be a quorum for the conducting of business. Official actions by the committee
 31 require approval by a majority of the voting members.

32 (9) The Department of Land Conservation and Development shall provide staff services
 33 for the committee.

34 (10) Notwithstanding ORS 171.072, members of the committee who are members of the
 35 Legislative Assembly are not entitled to mileage expenses or a per diem and serve as volun-
 36 teers on the committee. Other members of the committee are not entitled to reimbursement
 37 for expenses and serve as volunteers on the committee. However, the Director of the De-
 38 partment of Land Conservation and Development may, in the discretion of the director, re-
 39 imburse voting members of the committee for unforeseen expenses from moneys available
 40 for purposes of carrying out the functions of the committee.

41 **SECTION 2.** All agencies of state government as defined in ORS 174.111 are directed to
 42 assist the Land Use and Wildfire Policy Advisory Committee and the Department of Land
 43 Conservation and Development in the performance of committee and department duties un-
 44 der sections 3 and 4 of this 2021 Act.

REGIONAL WILDFIRE RISK

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3 **SECTION 3.** (1) The State Forestry Department and Oregon State University, in consul-
4 tation with the Department of Land Conservation and Development, shall for each wildfire
5 risk region of this state jointly consult with fire protection agencies and districts, fire offi-
6 cials and personnel and cities and counties in the region. The departments and the university
7 shall analyze the wildfire risk for each region to develop recommendations for reducing the
8 wildfire risk to people, public and private property, businesses, infrastructure and natural
9 resources in that region.

10 (2) The State Forestry Department and the university, in consultation with the Depart-
11 ment of Land Conservation and Development, shall report the recommendations for regional
12 wildfire risk reduction to the Land Use and Wildfire Policy Advisory Committee no later than
13 October 1, 2021.

14 (3) The departments and the committee shall analyze and evaluate the material to de-
15 velop recommendations regarding possible means for implementing the final recommen-
16 dations produced by the Governor's Council on Wildfire Response through the statewide land
17 use planning program and local governments to minimize the risks from wildfires to people,
18 public and private property, businesses, infrastructure and natural resources.

IMPLEMENTATION OF COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS

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22 **SECTION 4.** (1) The Department of Land Conservation and Development, in collaboration
23 with the State Forestry Department and the Land Use and Wildfire Policy Advisory Com-
24 mittee, shall report to an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly relating to natural
25 resources in the manner provided under ORS 192.245 no later than February 1, 2022, re-
26 garding possible means for implementing the final recommendations produced by the
27 Governor's Council on Wildfire Response.

28 (2) The report must include, but need not be limited to, the following:

29 (a) The recommendations developed under section 3 of this 2021 Act.

30 (b) Existing state and local maps that identify wildfire risk.

31 (c) To the extent the Land Use and Wildfire Policy Advisory Committee and the depart-
32 ments deem appropriate, new map resources that account for regional differences in pro-
33 gram information.

34 (d) Identification of state and local resources needed to develop, maintain and update
35 wildfire risk maps.

36 (e) Multiple recommendations regarding possible means for using the statewide planning
37 program and local governments including, but not limited to, recommendations regarding
38 revisions and updates to the statewide land use planning program and local zoning codes.

39 (f) Planning goals related to natural hazards, including but not limited to Goal 7.

40 (g) Existing state and local programs that minimize wildfire risk, including, but not lim-
41 ited to, programs that identify wildlife risk through mapping or that define minimum
42 defensible space.

43 (h) Identification of revisions to the statewide land use planning program and to local
44 building codes appropriate to minimize wildfire risks, including, but not limited to, provisions
45 regarding sufficient defensible space, safe evacuation, adequate access for wildfire fighting

1 equipment and personnel, and considerations regarding development in areas of high wildfire
2 risk that allow for regional differences in topography, vegetation, soil types and other rele-
3 vant factors.

4 (i) Funding, staffing and other administrative resources necessary for state, county and
5 city governments to implement wildfire reduction programs, including, but not limited to, the
6 costs of program development, implementation and ongoing operations and the need for
7 stable long-term funding for the programs.

8 (j) A description of areas of agreement and disagreement among the departments and
9 members of the Land Use and Wildfire Policy Advisory Committee.

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11 COUNCIL
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13 **SECTION 5.** The Governor may assign duties to the Governor’s Council on Wildfire Re-
14 sponse as the Governor deems appropriate to assist state and local agencies and officials to
15 oversee and assist in the implementation of wildfire risk reduction programs. The council’s
16 duties may include, but need not be limited to, providing advice, suggesting priorities, re-
17 commending future actions and providing coordination with federal agencies.

18 **SECTION 6.** (1) As used in this section, “sustainable” means short-term and long-term
19 financial stability that provides the ability to implement, carry out, expand and maintain
20 activity.

21 (2) The Governor’s Council on Wildfire Response shall report detailed recommendations
22 of the council for a sustainable model for funding a comprehensive wildfire strategy that is
23 consistent with the strategy contained in the “November 2019: Report and
24 Recommendations” of the council.

25 (3) The council shall report its recommendations to the Legislative Assembly as provided
26 in ORS 192.245, and to the Governor, no later than October 31, 2021.

27 (4) In developing recommendations and preparing the report described in this section, the
28 council:

29 (a) Shall cooperate with relevant state agencies including, but not limited to, the State
30 Forestry Department, the State Fire Marshal, the Oregon Health Authority, the Office of
31 Emergency Management, the Department of Land Conservation and Development, the De-
32 partment of Consumer and Business Services, the State Department of Fish and Wildlife, the
33 Department of Environmental Quality and the Oregon Department of Administrative Ser-
34 vices;

35 (b) Shall invite comments, advice or assistance from relevant federal agencies including,
36 but not limited to, the United States Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management;

37 (c) May contract with outside consultants and experts; and

38 (d) Shall use the regular meetings of the council as a forum for receiving input from
39 council members and the public regarding content for the report.

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41 FUEL LOAD DISPOSAL STUDY
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43 **SECTION 7.** (1) The State Department of Energy shall commission a study to determine
44 whether renewable energy generation is a feasible means for disposing of materials from
45 wildfire fuel load reduction projects. The study shall include, but need not be limited to, an

1 evaluation of the financial and operational feasibility of using the materials for renewable
 2 energy generation instead of disposing of the materials through controlled fires or other
 3 means.

4 (2) The entity commissioned by the department to conduct the study:

5 (a) Must have expertise in western United States energy markets;

6 (b) Must have expertise related to wildfire fuel load reduction; and

7 (c) Must be capable of conducting the study in conformance with transparency require-
 8 ments and other requirements of Oregon law.

9 (3) The department shall award a contract commissioning the study no later than August
 10 31, 2021. The amount of the contract may not exceed \$500,000.

11 (4) The department shall require the commissioned entity to complete the study no later
 12 than January 15, 2022.

13 (5) The Director of the State Department of Energy shall appoint an advisory committee
 14 to provide advice to the commissioned entity in conducting the study and to act as a re-
 15 viewing body for the study results. To the extent practicable, the director shall appoint ad-
 16 visory committee members representing a diverse range of stakeholder interests, expertise
 17 and education, racial, ethnic and economic groups and geographic areas of the state. The
 18 director shall appoint the advisory committee members on or before July 31, 2021.

19 (6) Members of the advisory committee are entitled to compensation and expenses in-
 20 curred by them in the performance of their official duties in the manner and amounts pro-
 21 vided in ORS 292.495. Claims for compensation and expenses shall be paid out of funds
 22 appropriated to the department for that purpose.

23 (7) The members of the advisory committee shall elect one of the members to be chair
 24 of the advisory committee and one member to be vice-chair, with all powers appropriate to
 25 those offices.

26 (8) The advisory committee shall meet at times and places determined by the chair or
 27 by the director. A majority of the advisory committee members shall be a quorum for the
 28 conducting of business. Official actions by the advisory committee require approval by a
 29 majority of the members.

30 (9) The department shall provide staff services for the advisory committee.

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 32 **APPROPRIATIONS**
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34 **SECTION 8.** In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-
 35 ated to the Department of Land Conservation and Development, for the biennium beginning
 36 July 1, 2021, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$350,000, which may be expended for
 37 carrying out department activities under sections 1, 3 and 4 of this 2021 Act.

38 **SECTION 9.** In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-
 39 ated to the State Forestry Department, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021, out of the
 40 General Fund, the amount of \$100,000, which may be expended for carrying out department
 41 activities under sections 3 and 4 of this 2021 Act.

42 **SECTION 10.** In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appro-
 43 priated to Oregon State University, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021, out of the Gen-
 44 eral Fund, the amount of \$50,000, which may be expended for carrying out university
 45 activities under section 3 of this 2021 Act.

