

SB 1534 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery

Action Date: 02/10/22

Action: Do pass with amendments and requesting referral to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Engrossed.)

Vote: 3-1-1-0

Yeas: 3 - Golden, Patterson, Prozanski

Nays: 1 - Heard

Exc: 1 - Kennemer

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/8, 2/10

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Defines "natural and working lands." Declares that it is the **policy** of the state to increase net carbon sequestration and storage in, and the resilience of, natural and working lands in this state. Encourages state agencies to use metrics designed to track progress implementing strategies to advance carbon sequestration in natural and working lands and the products they produce and to consider the benefits and burdens on communities associated with strategies. Directs Oregon Global Warming Commission (Commission) to appoint a **natural and working lands advisory committee** (advisory committee) to advise the Commission in the performance of its duties related to natural and working lands. Provides that advisory committee consists of at least 14 members, including but not limited to representatives of specified organizations and interests. Directs Institute for Natural Resources (INR) to provide and to contract with a third party to provide staff support to the advisory committee. Directs the Departments of Forestry, Agriculture, Land Conservation and Development, and Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board to monitor each respective agency's progress in advancing the measure's policies and report its findings to the Commission no later than August 1 of each even-numbered year. Directs INR, in coordination with Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) and the Commission, to consult with specified state agencies and federal land management partners to develop a **natural and working lands carbon sequestration and storage inventory**. Establishes inventory requirements. Directs ODOE to update the inventory and submit a report describing it to the Commission no later than August 1 of each even-numbered year. Requires Commission to consult with the advisory committee to aid the Commission in inventory work. Directs INR to coordinate with advisory committee to develop recommendations for a **net carbon sequestration and storage baseline** for natural and working lands and **activity-based and community-based metrics**. Directs Commission to accept or modify baseline and metrics and submit the final baseline, metrics, and recommendations for legislation in a report to interim legislative committees no later than September 15, 2023. Defines "climate-smart agriculture, forestry and conservation practices." Directs INR, in coordination with Commission, to study the **workforce and economic development** potential of strategies to increase net carbon sequestration and storage in natural and working lands, including an evaluation of the need for expanding programs for **climate-smart agriculture, forestry, and conservation practices**. Directs INR to provide results of study, including recommendations for legislation, to legislative committees no later than April 15, 2023. Establishes due dates for first reports. Changes date of submittal of **Commission biennial report** to Legislative Assembly to September 15 of each odd-numbered year. Directs Commission to include in biennial report a description of activities in furtherance of policies for net carbon sequestration and storage in natural and working lands described in specified sections of Act. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

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ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Oregon Global Warming Commission process to develop proposal
- Farming practices that help to sequester carbon
- Definitions of "natural and working lands" and "climate-smart agriculture, forestry, and conservation practices"
- Role of advisory committee

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND:

According to the United States Geological Survey, carbon sequestration is "the process of capturing and storing atmospheric carbon dioxide" and "biologic carbon sequestration" is the "storage of atmospheric carbon in vegetation, soils, woody products, and aquatic environments."

The Oregon Global Warming Commission (Commission) was established by the Oregon Legislative Assembly in 2007 (ORS 468A.200 - .260). The Commission mission is to "Recommend ways to coordinate state and local efforts to reduce Oregon's greenhouse gas emissions, and to help the state, local governments, businesses, and Oregonians prepare for the effects of climate change." The Institute for Natural Resources (INR) at Oregon State University was established by the Oregon Legislature in 2001 (ORS 352.808). The INR mission is "To provide reliable, objective, relevant, and science-based integrated natural resource knowledge to facilitate long-term stewardship of Oregon's environments and natural resources."

On March 10, 2020, Governor Brown issued Executive Order 20-04 directing state agencies to take actions to reduce and regulate greenhouse gas emissions. The order directed the Commission to work with the Oregon Departments of Agriculture and Forestry, and the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board to develop and submit a proposal for setting a carbon sequestration and storage goal for Oregon's natural and working lands. In 2021, the Commission published the "Natural and Working Lands Proposal." The Proposal recommended an outcome-based goal and the establishment of state metrics and four strategies to achieve the goal.

Senate Bill 1534 A would declare it to be the policy of the state to increase net carbon sequestration and storage in, and the resilience of, natural and working lands in Oregon. The measure would direct work by the Commission, state agencies, and the INR related to increasing carbon sequestration in natural and working lands.