

DRAFT

SUMMARY

Digest: The Act directs the State Fire Marshal to create a grant program to help property owners with wildfire resilience. The Act creates a fund related to the grant program. The Act directs the State Fire Marshal to report on the grant program. The Act directs agencies to plan for a program for certifying reduced wildfire risk for insurance purposes. The Act gives moneys to the State Fire Marshal for the grant program. The Act goes into effect when the Governor signs it. (Flesch Readability Score: 71.9).

Directs the State Fire Marshal to establish a neighborhood protection cooperative grant program.

Establishes the Neighborhood Protection Cooperative Grant Program Fund.

Directs the Department of the State Fire Marshal to include status reports on the program in certain biannual reports.

Directs the Department of Consumer and Business Services, the Department of the State Fire Marshal and the State Forestry Department to develop a plan and implementation timeline for establishing an insurance-related risk reduction certification program and report on the program on or before December 1, 2024.

Appropriates moneys to the State Fire Marshal, out of the General Fund, for implementing the neighborhood protection cooperative grant program.

Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to wildfire risk reduction; creating new provisions; amending ORS 476.398; and declaring an emergency.

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

NEIGHBORHOOD PROTECTION COOPERATIVE GRANT PROGRAM

SECTION 1. (1) The State Fire Marshal shall establish a neighbor-

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 hood protection cooperative grant program to promote wildfire
2 resilience within communities.

3 (2) In establishing the program described in subsection (1) of this
4 section, the State Fire Marshal shall promote collaboration with other
5 related programs to the extent practicable.

6 (3) Under the program described in subsection (1) of this section,
7 the State Fire Marshal shall award grants to local governments, or-
8 ganizations related to fire districts and nongovernmental organiza-
9 tions for awarding and administering individual grants to property
10 owners to promote wildfire resilience, pursuant to criteria determined
11 by the State Fire Marshal.

12 (4) The State Fire Marshal shall develop criteria for awarding
13 grants to local governments, organizations related to fire districts and
14 nongovernmental organizations, and for awarding individual grants to
15 property owners, in consultation with:

16 (a) The Department of Consumer and Business Services and the
17 State Forestry Department.

18 (b) Stakeholders, in order to make requirements as workable for
19 potential grantee organizations as possible.

20 (5) The State Fire Marshal shall publish the criteria described in
21 subsection (4) of this section on a State Fire Marshal website.

22 (6) The criteria described in subsection (4) of this section for awards
23 of grants to local governments, organizations related to fire districts
24 and nongovernmental organizations may include requirements that
25 grantees:

26 (a) Create preliminary plans for identifying neighborhoods in which
27 property owners may be awarded individual grants.

28 (b) Conduct initial defensible space assessments for neighborhoods
29 described in paragraph (a) of this subsection.

30 (c) Require all persons who perform onsite hazard assessments
31 funded by a grant under this section complete defensible space as-

1 **assessment training overseen by the State Fire Marshal.**

2 **(d) Periodically report to the State Fire Marshal on awarding and**
3 **administering individual grants under this section.**

4 **(7) The criteria described in subsection (4) of this section for awards**
5 **of individual grants may include qualifications and standards for el-**
6 **igibility, such as preferences for awarding individual grants to prop-**
7 **erty owners who own property in neighborhoods:**

8 **(a) In areas with high wildfire exposure.**

9 **(b) With identifiable social and economic barriers.**

10 **(c) That are likely to be successful in implementing wildfire risk**
11 **reduction measures.**

12 **SECTION 2. The State Fire Marshal shall publish neighborhood**
13 **protection cooperative grant program criteria, as described in section**
14 **1 (5) of this 2024 Act, on or before July 1, 2024.**

15 **SECTION 3. (1) The Neighborhood Protection Cooperative Grant**
16 **Program Fund is established in the State Treasury, separate and dis-**
17 **tinct from the General Fund. Interest earned by the Neighborhood**
18 **Protection Cooperative Grant Program Fund shall be credited to the**
19 **fund.**

20 **(2) The fund shall consist of all moneys placed in the fund as pro-**
21 **vided by law and any gifts, grants, donations, endowments or bequests**
22 **from any public or private source, including individuals and private**
23 **organizations.**

24 **(3) Moneys in the fund are continuously appropriated to the State**
25 **Fire Marshal for the purpose of carrying out the neighborhood pro-**
26 **tection cooperative grant program described in section 1 of this 2024**
27 **Act.**

28 **SECTION 4. ORS 476.398 is amended to read:**

29 **476.398. (1) The State Fire Marshal shall biannually report regarding the**
30 **status of State Fire Marshal and local government activities for carrying out**
31 **ORS 476.392 and section 1 of this 2024 Act to a committee or interim**

1 committee of the Legislative Assembly related to wildfire, in the manner
2 provided in ORS 192.245, to the State Wildfire Programs Director and to the
3 Wildfire Programs Advisory Council:

4 (a) On or before the date of convening of the regular session of the Leg-
5 islative Assembly as specified in ORS 171.010.

6 (b) Approximately six months after the date described in paragraph (a)
7 of this subsection.

8 (2) The report shall include, but need not be limited to:

9 (a) A status report regarding community risk reduction and the estab-
10 lishment, administration and enforcement of defensible space requirements;

11 **(b) A status report regarding the establishment and administration**
12 **of the neighborhood protection cooperative grant program described**
13 **in section 1 of this 2024 Act, including recommendations for improving**
14 **administration of the program;**

15 ~~[(b)]~~ (c) The amount of moneys expended during the year for community
16 risk reduction and the establishment, administration or enforcement of
17 defensible space requirements;

18 ~~[(c)]~~ (d) The amount of moneys expended during the year for the sup-
19 pression of fires on wildland-urban interface lands; and

20 ~~[(d)]~~ (e) Any recommendations of the State Fire Marshal for legislative
21 action, including, but not limited to[,]:

22 (A) Current or future resource and funding needs for community risk re-
23 duction [*and*];

24 (B) Establishing, administering or enforcing defensible space
25 requirements[.]; **and**

26 (C) **Improving the neighborhood protection cooperative grant pro-**
27 **gram described in section 1 of this 2024 Act.**

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29 **RISK REDUCTION CERTIFICATION PROGRAM REPORT**

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31 **SECTION 5. (1) In consultation with representatives from the in-**

1 insurance industry, the Department of Consumer and Business Services,
2 the Department of the State Fire Marshal and the State Forestry De-
3 partment shall develop a plan and implementation timeline for estab-
4 lishing a risk reduction certification program that:

5 (a) Identifies wildfire risk mitigation actions, including actions
6 taken under the neighborhood protection cooperative grant program
7 described in section 1 of this 2024 Act, that merit consideration, as
8 favorable to insurance policy holders, when representatives of the in-
9 surance industry are determining underwriting and insurance pre-
10 mium rates.

11 (b) Is informed by discussion with decision makers in the insurance
12 industry.

13 (2) On or before December 1, 2024, the departments shall submit a
14 preliminary report to committees or interim committees of the Legis-
15 lative Assembly relating to natural resources, in the manner pre-
16 scribed in ORS 192.245, and to the Governor, that:

17 (a) Describes actions taken under subsection (1) of this section; and

18 (b) Suggests a date for submission of a subsequent, more complete
19 report on actions described in subsection (1) of this section.

20 SECTION 6. Section 5 of this 2024 Act is repealed on January 2, 2026.

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APPROPRIATION

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24 SECTION 7. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropri-
25 ation, there is appropriated to the State Fire Marshal, for the
26 biennium ending June 30, 2025, out of the General Fund, the amount
27 of \$5,000,000, for deposit in the Neighborhood Protection Cooperative
28 Grant Program Fund established by section 3 of this 2024 Act, to be
29 expended as described in section 3 of this 2024 Act.

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CAPTIONS

1 **SECTION 8.** The unit captions used in this 2024 Act are provided
2 only for the convenience of the reader and do not become part of the
3 statutory law of this state or express any legislative intent in the
4 enactment of this 2024 Act.

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EFFECTIVE DATE

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8 **SECTION 9.** This 2024 Act being necessary for the immediate pres-
9 ervation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is de-
10 clared to exist, and this 2024 Act takes effect on its passage.

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