

HB 3019 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

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Sub-Referral To: House Committee On Revenue

Meeting Dates: 2/7, 2/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Oregon Board of Forestry to annually establish privilege tax rate rather than the Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI) board of directors. Transfers privilege tax revenue from OFRI Fund to Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) account for 33 percent distribution to the OFRI Fund, 33 percent distribution to the Oregon Forest Land Protection Fund, and 34 percent distribution to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission for Oregon State University (OSU) Extension Service to implement the Oregon Environmental Literacy Plan (OELP). Expands OFRI's board of directors from 11 to 13 voting members, requiring the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives to jointly appoint one voting member who represents the environmental community and one who has experience with a fishery or wildlife-related science. Prohibits OFRI from expending funds on generalized advertising for public education related to forest practices, including the adequacy or effectiveness of any particular forest practice, and on educational materials, training, tours, or other outreach that does not include a conservation perspective. Requires OFRI to maintain records of staff interactions with certain individuals, annually report to Governor on records, and make report publicly available on the OFRI website. Requires ODF to review for factual accuracy and approve communications and publications produced or recommended by OFRI. Requires OSU Extension Service to implement the OELP dated April 20, 2013.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In 1991 the Oregon Legislature created the Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI) to support Oregon's forest products industry. The state agency provides forest and forest management education programs for the general public, K-12 teachers and students, and forest landowners.

In 2007, the Legislative Assembly established a taskforce in House Bill 2544 to develop the Oregon Environmental Literacy Plan (OELP). The plan was completed in 2013, and outlined goals and recommendations related to educational standards, graduation requirements, professional development, environmental literacy assessment, and other implementation strategies. Oregon State University (OSU) Extension established the Oregon Environmental Literacy Program to support teachers in collaboration with non-formal educators to foster the environmental literacy of kindergarten through 12th grade students by engaging students in activities and experiences inside and outside the classroom. OSU faculty provide administrative oversight of the program and work with a Program Council to provide strategic leadership and implementation.

House Bill 3019 would redistribute privilege tax revenues to the OFRI Fund, Oregon Forest and Protection Fund, and Oregon State University Extension Service to implement the Oregon Environmental Literacy Plan. House Bill 3019 would also modify the OFRI board composition and expenditure limitations and would require additional reporting requirements and oversight.