

SB 795 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Natural Resources

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Meeting Dates: 2/27

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Defines 'forest lands' as any lands, or interest in lands, that constitute a state forest or portion of a state forest, but does not include Common School Forest Lands or the Elliott State Forest. Directs the State Board of Forestry to convey state forest lands within a county to the county if the board of county commissioners determines conveyance would secure the greatest permanent value of the forest lands to the county and if the board requests the conveyance. States that conveyed lands are subject to certain encumbrances, covenants, easements, and lease agreements. Directs counties to pay all transaction and closing costs related to the conveyance, and to pay to the state other costs as consideration for the transfer. Directs the Oregon Department of Administrative Services to assist the State Board of Forestry with the conveyance of forest lands.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon contains approximately 745,000 acres of state forest lands, which is about three percent of Oregon's total forest land. The State Board of Forestry is required to manage the lands to secure the greatest permanent value of those lands to the state (ORS 530.050), and may achieve that through protecting the lands from fire, disease, and insect pests; selling forest products from the lands; executing mining leases and contracts; entering into and administering contracts for timber sales and other related activities; permitting the use of the lands for other purposes including forage and browse for domestic livestock, fish, and wildlife, landscape effect, protection against floods and erosion, recreation, and protection of water supplies; granting easements, permits, and licenses across the lands; requiring and collecting fees or charges for the use of state forest roads; reforesting the lands; selling rock, sand, gravel, pumice, and other such materials from the lands; entering into agreements for the production of minor forest products; and establishing a forestry carbon offset program.

Senate Bill 795 would direct the State Board of Forestry to convey certain forest lands to a county that determines that they would secure the greatest permanent value of the lands and that requests the conveyance.