

## SB 509 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### Senate Committee On Natural Resources

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**Meeting Dates:** 2/6, 3/8

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#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Oregon Department of Forestry to study community-based programs for reducing wildfire risk, and to submit a report to the natural resources-related interim legislative committees by September 15, 2024.

*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:

-2 Establishes a **state policy** to assist communities and property owners in implementing wildfire risk reduction activities, to expand programs to serve wildfire-prone communities across the state as rapidly as resources allow, and to coordinate efforts across the state to optimize the effectiveness and cost-efficiency of wildfire-related programs. Directs the State Fire Marshal (SFM) to establish a **grant and incentive program** that supports communities, counties, and the public in reducing wildfire risk and prioritizes need-based applicants. Directs the SFM to establish a **neighborhood protection cooperative program** to coordinate, streamline, and improve Oregon programs that assist with reducing wildfire risk around buildings and in neighborhoods, through on-site consultations and cooperative practices. Requires the SFM to develop and implement a training curriculum for **on-site consultants**, and to assist with making on-site consultants available to property owners. Requires the SFM to adopt rules, to hold public hearings in at least six high wildfire exposure communities, to identify opportunities for collaboration or coordination with state agencies that have programs and personnel focused on wildfire prevention in communities, and to prioritize collaborating with specified groups for rulemaking and program implementation. Directs the SFM to ensure a **central, user-friendly public website** clearly describes all programs, grant opportunities, and citizen input processes with the aim of maximizing convenience for persons seeking relevant information and services across multiple agencies and organizations. Specifies website content requirements. Directs the SFM, in consultation with state agencies, counties, community organizations, fire service providers, and other partners, to develop a **20-year strategic plan** that prioritizes fire resiliency and building fire-adapted communities. Directs the SFM to establish an **interagency data collection system** to enable cooperation on wildfire risk reduction investments under the community risk reduction program. Specifies additional contents for **biannual SFM reports** related to the new programs established under this Act.

**Appropriates \$10 million** to the SFM through the Community Risk Reduction Fund for the grant and incentive program. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

*FISCAL: Has fiscal impact*

*REVENUE: No revenue impact*

#### BACKGROUND:

Community wildfire risk reduction is commonly known as a process that helps communities identify their risks, develop a plan to reduce their risks, and strategically invest to reduce their occurrence and impact. The Oregon Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) created the Fire Adapted Oregon initiative following the enactment of Senate Bill 762 (2021) to engage in enhanced, data-driven community risk reduction work. OSFM currently has seven regional fire risk reduction specialists on staff who work with local partners to create and promote

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fire-adapted communities in Oregon.

Senate Bill 509 would direct the Oregon Department of Forestry to study community-based programs for reducing wildfire risk, and to submit a report to the natural resources-related interim legislative committees by September 15, 2024.