

SB 928 -3 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Prepared By: Laura Kentnesse, LPRO Analyst

Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/15, 3/27

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Instructs the State Forester, or any forest protective association or agency under contract or agreement with the State Board of Forestry for protection of forestland against fire, and whose protection area is or may be affected by fire on nearby federal lands, to take certain actions to address fire. Requires the State Forester and specified entities to undertake fire management response planning to address fires or potential fires originating on federal lands and to implement that planning if a fire originates on federal lands. Provides that in the event that the implementation of planning does not adequately protect forestland, the State Forester may enter onto federal lands to abate the fire, at the expense of the state, to the extent permitted by federal law, or in coordination with federal land management agencies. Specifies that implementation actions do not affect any state obligation for provision of wildfire suppression personnel, equipment, or services. Prohibits the State Forester from using wildfire suppression personnel, equipment, or services, without permission, on federal military land withdrawn from public access or on lands held by an Indian tribe.

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:

-3 Replaces the measure. Contains all provisions of the measure as introduced with the following modifications. Replaces federal lands with lands owned or managed by the United States Forest Service (Forest Service). Adds provision that the forester consider any resource availability constraints before entering onto Forest Service lands. Adds provision that if the forester enters onto lands owned or managed by the Forest Service to abate fire and it is determined that the fire was caused by the negligence of a person, the forester may pursue recovery against the person for the expense of abating the fire and to the extent permitted by federal law.

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

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

BACKGROUND:

Senate Bill 928 would instruct the State Forester and other specified entities to take certain actions to address fire originating on federal lands.