

SB 80 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Natural Resources

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Meeting Dates: 3/27, 3/29

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Oregon Department of Forestry to study wildfire, and to submit a report to 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 Replaces the measure. Modifies the **statewide wildfire map name** to include a reference to "hazard" rather than to "risk." Changes the **five statewide wildfire risk classes to four statewide wildfire hazard zones**, eliminating the "no risk" classification. Directs the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) to only provide **notice of hazard zone assignment** to property owners whose property is assigned to an extreme or high hazard zone, and specifies notice contents and required review by the Wildfire Programs Advisory Council. Requires **appeal process** follows contested case procedures under the Administrative Procedures Act. Requires ODF and Oregon State University to provide for **robust community engagement** through a process that ensures that the underlying criteria for assigning hazard zones are publicly available and comprehensible to a public audience, is interactive and does not consist solely of delivering information in a top-down manner, and is coordinated with local partners, including counties, relevant state agencies, and the Wildfire Programs Advisory Council. Requires ODF to meet with **county commissioners and their staff** in eight in-person meetings throughout the state during the mapping process and before the map is released to ensure that proper zone mapping occurs. Requires ODF to accept public comment on the map and to meet with county commissioners upon request when the map is released but before final publication. Directs state agencies to **use the map layer of socially and economically vulnerable communities** to direct resources for wildfire hazard reduction and wildfire resiliency to those most in need, and to assist with identifying communities for extensive, targeted engagement and outreach. Specifies outreach requirements. Allows for financial assistance to be provided to members of socially and economically vulnerable communities for **defensible space efforts** on land where they reside, rather than land that they own. Requires that the **statewide map be completed and released expeditiously** following required collaboration. Establishes a **Landscape Resiliency Fund** to continuously appropriate moneys to ODF for landscape resilience projects. Authorizes the Landscape Resiliency Fund and the Community Risk Reduction Fund to receive **gifts, grants, donations, endowments or bequests** from any public or private sources. Allows nonprofits and faith-based organizations to establish **emergency spaces for cleaner air**, warming, or cooling under an Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) grant program. Clarifies that ODHS support for entities operating and planning cleaner air, warming, or cooling spaces includes the provision of technical expertise, equipment, staff assistance, training, and general assistance. Requires that the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives must wait at least seven days, rather than 30 days, before **appointing a member of the Wildfire Programs Advisory Council**. Directs the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM), in collaboration with the Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS), to establish the **Wildfire Home Preparedness Program**, a grant program to facilitate retrofitting of existing dwellings and accessory structures, as well as the building of new dwellings and accessory structures following a wildfire event, to be resistant and resilient to wildfire.

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Requires DCBS to publish a list of, and determine the relative cost-effectiveness of, eligible retrofits and materials that reduce the vulnerability of structures. Requires OSFM to **award grants with a preference** for: persons who live in extreme or high wildfire hazard zones; persons in socially and economically vulnerable communities; low-income persons who have demonstrated financial need; persons whose homes have been destroyed or significantly damaged by a declared wildfire event; applications that are relatively cost effective; and applications that have the potential to leverage federal or private funds. Authorizes the State Fire Marshal to adopt rules for implementation, in consultation with specified entities, and requires grantees and grant administrators to report to OSFM on the use of grant moneys.

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BACKGROUND:

In 2021, the Legislative Assembly enacted Senate Bill 762, a wide-ranging wildfire law that invested in dozens of programs and initiatives that aligned with three key strategies: creating fire-adapted communities, increasing resiliency in Oregon's landscapes, and developing safer and more effective wildfire response.

One provision of the law directs the Oregon Department of Forestry and Oregon State University to collaboratively produce a comprehensive statewide map of wildfire risk that reflects five statewide wildfire risk classes - extreme, high, moderate, low, and no risk - at the property-ownership level. It contains requirements for notice to property owners, appeal procedures, a map layer that displays socially and economically vulnerable communities, and collaboration in the map development and maintenance processes. Another provision of the law requires the Oregon Department of Human Services to establish a grant program that allows local governments, public education providers, and federally recognized Indian tribes to provide cleaner air spaces during wildfire smoke and other poor air quality events, and to provide public access to these spaces at no charge.

Senate Bill 80 would direct the Oregon Department of Forestry to study wildfire, and to submit a report to natural resources-related interim legislative committees by September 15, 2024.