

HB 2594 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Judiciary

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Meeting Dates: 4/25, 5/10

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Modifies penalties for committing offense of throwing lighted material onto certain property.

Revenue: Minimal revenue impact.

Fiscal: Minimal fiscal impact.

House Vote: Ayes, 52; Nays, 4; Excused, 4.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 Deletes portion of measure modifying penalty for violating ORS 476.715. Provides that violation of ORS 476.715 is a Class B misdemeanor only if a person commits the offense on applicable land during a fire season or if the offense results in the ignition of a fire. In all other cases, provides that violation of ORS 476.715 is a Class A violation.

BACKGROUND:

Current law, under ORS 476.715, prohibits individuals from throwing away any lighted material on any forestland, private road, public highway or railroad right of way within Oregon. A violation of ORS 476.715 is a Class B misdemeanor.

House Bill 2594 reduces the penalty for violating ORS 476.715 to a Class A violation if the commission of the offense creates a risk of wildfire. The penalty would remain a Class B misdemeanor if the commission of the offense creates an extreme risk of wildfire. In all other cases, the offense would be a Class B violation.