

HB 2594 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Morgan

House Committee On Judiciary

Action Date: 03/21/23

Action: Do Pass.

Vote: 9-0-1-0

Yeas: 9 - Andersen, Chaichi, Conrad, Kropf, Lewis, Morgan, Reynolds, Tran, Wallan

Exc: 1 - Bynum

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: Has minimal revenue impact

Prepared By: Lucy Ohlsen, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/1, 3/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

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

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Current law and enforcement of the law
- Difference between risk and extreme risk of wildfire
- Reducing workload of district attorneys and courts

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

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.