

HB 2522 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Golden

Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Action Date: 05/03/23

Action: Do pass the A-Eng bill.

Vote: 3-1-1-0

Yeas: 3 - Golden, Prozanski, Taylor

Nays: 1 - Smith DB

Exc: 1 - Girod

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 4/26, 5/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires the State Fire Marshal to establish and appoint a Rural Structural Fire Protection Review Committee. Requires the committee to conduct a comprehensive review of statutes related to structural fire protection, not including provisions related to forestland assessment, field burning, or consultation with the Oregon Department of Forestry. Requires the committee to develop recommendations to modernize and improve rural fire protection district operations, and to submit a report of the recommendations to relevant committees of the Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2024. Sunsets January 2, 2025. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Changes in the fire service since the rural fire protection district statutes were created
- Clarification that this work will focus on modernizing the formation and operation of rural fire protection districts
- Measure does not aim to address building codes or Senate Bill 762 (2021) State Fire Marshal tasks

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The need for rural fire protection in Oregon was contemplated as early as 1939 by the Legislative Assembly with the creation of rural fire protection districts (RFPD). RFPDs are a defined area, typically located outside of incorporated cities, which are organized for the purpose of providing fire protection to the inhabitants and property within the district. There are currently 123 RFPDs statewide.

House Bill 2522 A would direct the State Fire Marshal to create a Rural Structural Fire Protection Review Committee to review statutes and develop recommendations to modernize and improve rural fire protection district operations.