

House Bill 2248

Sponsored by Representatives SMITH DB, OSBORNE (Presession filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Requires Water Resources Department and Department of Environmental Quality to study impacts of wildfire on water quality of streams and tributaries. Directs departments to submit findings to interim committees of Legislative Assembly related to water no later than September 15, 2024.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to the impacts of wildfire on water quality.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1. (1) The Water Resources Department and Department of Environmental**
5 **Quality shall jointly study the impacts of wildfire on the water quality of streams and**
6 **tributaries, in consultation with any other relevant state agencies.**

7 **(2) At minimum, the study must assess how the first rains after a wildfire affect the**
8 **water quality, and whether levels of turbidity and sediment change after a wildfire, paying**
9 **particular attention to the potential infilling of colder, deeper salmonid habitat pools and to**
10 **any subsequent effects on spawning gravel and beds from changes in fine sediment deposits**
11 **and coverage.**

12 **(3) The departments shall jointly submit a report in the manner provided by ORS 192.245,**
13 **and may include recommendations for legislation, to the interim committees of the Legisla-**
14 **tive Assembly related to water no later than September 15, 2024.**

15 **SECTION 2. Section 1 of this 2023 Act is repealed on January 2, 2025.**

16

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.