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.


SECTION 1. (1) The State Forestry Department shall establish a Prescribed Fire Capacity Grant Program to:
(a) Increase the pace and scale of the use of prescribed fire and cultural burning.
(b) Reduce barriers for conducting prescribed fires and cultural burning.
(2) Under the program, the department may:
(a) Award grants to local governments, nongovernmental organizations, federally recognized Indian tribes in this state, businesses and private landowners.
(b) Award grants that:
(A) Support workforce development.
(B) Add capacity to conduct prescribed fires and cultural burns.
(C) Assist with funding equipment and personnel that are needed for conducting prescribed fires and cultural burns.
(3) To implement the program, the department:
(a) May publish a notice that describes eligibility for the grants.
(b) Shall collaborate with other relevant state agencies, cultural fire practitioners, the Oregon Prescribed Fire Council and Certified Burn Managers, as defined in ORS 526.005, to establish guidelines governing the program and requirements for grantee reporting and implementation of grant-funded projects.

SECTION 2. The Prescribed Fire Capacity Fund is established in the State Treasury, separate and distinct from the General Fund. Interest earned by the Prescribed Fire Capacity Fund shall be credited to the fund. Moneys in the fund are continuously appropriated to the

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.
State Forestry Department for the purposes described in section 1 of this 2023 Act.

SECTION 3. (1) Sections 1 and 2 of this 2023 Act are repealed on January 2, 2029.

(2) Any moneys remaining in the Prescribed Fire Capacity Fund that are unexpended and unobligated on the date specified in subsection (1) of this section shall revert to the General Fund.

SECTION 4. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropriated to the State Forestry Department, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, out of the General Fund, the amount of $5,000,000, for deposit into the Prescribed Fire Capacity Fund established by section 2 of this 2023 Act.

SECTION 5. This 2023 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2023 Act takes effect on its passage.