Senate Bill 440

Sponsored by Senator HAYDEN (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.

Directs Department of Transportation to establish intensive planting pilot program to plant trees and vegetation in highway right of way for purpose of sequestering carbon.

Sunsets January 2, 2026.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to highways.

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

SECTION 1. (1) The Department of Transportation shall establish an intensive planting pilot program aimed toward planting trees and vegetation in the highway right of way under the jurisdiction of the department.

(2) Selection of appropriate trees and vegetation for planting shall be made in consultation with the State Forester.

(3) In selecting species of trees and vegetation the department and State Forester must focus on maximizing carbon sequestration and net greenhouse gas emissions reductions.

(4) The department shall identify a minimum of 500 highway miles, under the department's jurisdiction, along which is suitable for planting trees and other vegetation.

(5) The department shall take the actions required under subsections (1) to (4) of this section before January 1, 2026.

(6) The department shall submit a report. The report must include, but is not limited to the following information:

(a) The number and variety of species planted;

(b) The estimated amount of carbon sequestered; and

(c) Any recommendations for expanding the program at the state and local level.

(7) The report shall be submitted in the manner provided by ORS 192.245, and may include recommendations for legislation, to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to transportation no later than September 15, 2025.

(8) The department may adopt rules to carry out the provisions of this section.

SECTION 2. Section 1 of this 2023 Act is repealed on January 2, 2026.