Senate Bill 653
Sponsored by Senator KNOPP; Senator GIROD (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.

Appropriates $50 million to State Forestry Department to fund increased forest thinning operations in specified wildfire-prone counties. Directs department to allocate $5 million to fund forest thinning operations on public lands located in each wildfire-prone county. Requires department to confer with county governing body of each county to determine which specific forest thinning operations to fund.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT
Relating to funding for forest thinning; and declaring an emergency.

SECTION 1. 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 $50 million, which may be expended for the purpose of making the distributions to wildfire-prone counties to conduct forest thinning operations, as described in section 2 of this 2023 Act.

SECTION 2. (1) Moneys appropriated to the State Forestry Department under section 1 of this 2023 Act shall be used to conduct forest thinning operations in Clackamas, Deschutes, Douglas, Jackson, Josephine, Klamath, Lane, Lincoln, Linn and Marion Counties.

(2) From the appropriation described in subsection (1) of this section, the department shall allocate $5 million to each county listed in subsection (1) of this section to fund activities described in this subsection. The department shall confer with the county governing body for each county to determine specific forest thinning operations to be conducted, so that:

(a) Forest thinning operations on state lands located in a county may be used to directly fund department operations to conduct forest thinning; and

(b) The remaining balance of moneys may be used to fund county governing body efforts to increase forest thinning operations on public lands within that county.

SECTION 3. 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.