

SENATE AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 509

By COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

March 20

1 In line 2 of the printed bill, after “risk” insert “; creating new provisions; amending ORS 476.390
2 and 476.398; and declaring an emergency”.

3 Delete lines 4 through 8 and insert:

4 **“SECTION 1. In pursuing the overarching objective of reducing the number and intensity
5 of catastrophic wildfires, it is the policy of the State of Oregon:**

6 **“(1) To assist communities and property owners in implementing wildfire risk reduction
7 activities;**

8 **“(2) To expand programs to serve wildfire-prone communities across this state as rapidly
9 as available resources allow; and**

10 **“(3) To coordinate efforts across this state so as to optimize the effectiveness and cost-
11 efficiency of wildfire-related programs.**

12 **“SECTION 2. The State Fire Marshal shall:**

13 **“(1) Establish a grant and incentive program that supports communities, counties and
14 the public in reducing wildfire risk and prioritizes need-based applicants.**

15 **“(2) Establish grant procedures by rule.**

16 **“SECTION 3. (1) The State Fire Marshal shall establish a neighborhood protection coop-
17 erative program to coordinate, streamline and improve Oregon programs that assist with
18 reducing wildfire risks around buildings and in neighborhoods, through on-site consultations
19 and cooperative practices.**

20 **“(2) As part of the program, the State Fire Marshal shall develop a training curriculum
21 for on-site consultants who may visit properties and recommend best practices.**

22 **“(3) The State Fire Marshal may conduct the training for on-site consultants described
23 in subsection (2) of this section or contract for a person or entity to conduct the training.**

24 **“(4) The State Fire Marshal shall assist with making the on-site consultants described in
25 subsection (2) of this section available to assist property owners.**

26 **“(5) To implement the program, the State Fire Marshal shall:**

27 **“(a) Adopt rules.**

28 **“(b) Hold public hearings in at least six communities in this state that have high expo-
29 sure to wildfire.**

30 **“(c) Identify, through rules, opportunities for collaboration or coordination with all state
31 agencies that have programs and personnel focused on wildfire prevention in communities.**

32 **“(d) Coordinate with state agencies to maximize efficiencies in receiving, processing and
33 expending nonstate funding related to reducing wildfire risk.**

34 **“(6) The State Fire Marshal may enter into memoranda of understanding to facilitate the
35 coordination described in subsection (5) of this section.**

1 “(7) When adopting rules and implementing the program, the State Fire Marshal shall
2 prioritize collaborating with various groups, including:

3 “(a) Local governments and special districts.

4 “(b) Tribal governments.

5 “(c) Fire departments and districts.

6 “(d) Nonprofit organizations that are involved in community organizing or managing
7 vegetation susceptible to wildfire.

8 “(e) The State Forestry Department.

9 “(f) The Oregon State University Extension Service Fire Program.

10 “(g) The Building Codes Division of the Department of Consumer and Business Services.

11 “(h) The Division of Financial Regulation of the Department of Consumer and Business
12 Services.

13 “(i) The Higher Education Coordinating Commission.

14 “(j) The Wildfire Programs Advisory Council.

15 “(k) Consumer-owned and investor-owned utilities.

16 “SECTION 4. (1) The State Fire Marshal shall expand the online presence of the Depart-
17 ment of the State Fire Marshal to include a central, user-friendly website that clearly de-
18 scribes all programs, grant opportunities and citizen input processes related to the
19 community risk reduction program described in section 1 of this 2023 Act, with the aim of
20 maximizing convenience for persons seeking relevant information and services across mul-
21 tiple agencies and organizations.

22 “(2) The website described in subsection (1) of this section must include:

23 “(a) A description of all opportunities for accessing resources that relate to the activities
24 of the community risk reduction program, including links to all relevant application materi-
25 als.

26 “(b) The dates of all scheduled public meetings to discuss the activities of the community
27 risk reduction program, and information on how to join the meetings online.

28 “(c) Information on how to be added to any lists through which are announced future
29 relevant grant opportunities and public meetings.

30 “(d) Instructions on how and when persons are able to submit comments on rulemaking
31 and other decision processes related to activities under the community risk reduction pro-
32 gram.

33 “(e) Maps and other graphic materials related to activities under the community risk
34 reduction program.

35 “(f) Information on existing and forthcoming building code and defensible space require-
36 ments that impact activities under the community risk reduction program.

37 “(g) Insurance information related to wildfire risk reduction.

38 “(h) Information on organizing activities under the neighborhood protection cooperative
39 program described in section 3 of this 2023 Act.

40 “(i) Links to relevant informational and educational materials.

41 “SECTION 5. In consultation with relevant state agencies, counties, community organ-
42 izations, fire service providers and other partners, the State Fire Marshal shall develop a
43 20-year strategic plan that prioritizes fire resiliency and building fire-adapted communities.

44 “SECTION 6. (1) The State Fire Marshal shall establish an interagency data collection
45 system to enable cooperation on wildfire risk reduction investments related to services and

1 activities under the community risk reduction program described in section 1 of this 2023
2 Act.

3 **“(2) The system must be designed to enable more effective planning, monitoring and
4 evaluation of the community risk reduction program.**

5 **“SECTION 7.** ORS 476.398 is amended to read:

6 **“476.398. (1) The State Fire Marshal shall biannually report regarding the status of State Fire
7 Marshal and local government activities for carrying out ORS 476.392 and sections 1, 2, 3 and 4
8 of this 2023 Act to a committee or interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to
9 wildfire, in the manner provided in ORS 192.245, to the State Wildfire Programs Director and to the
10 Wildfire Programs Advisory Council:**

11 **“(a) On or before the date of convening of the regular session of the Legislative Assembly as
12 specified in ORS 171.010.**

13 **“(b) Approximately six months after the date described in paragraph (a) of this subsection.**

14 **“(2) The report shall include, but need not be limited to:**

15 **“(a) A status report regarding community risk reduction and the establishment, administration
16 and enforcement of defensible space requirements;**

17 **“(b) The amount of moneys expended during the year for community risk reduction and the es-
18 tablishment, administration or enforcement of defensible space requirements;**

19 **“(c) Information about the number, amounts, geographic distribution and categories of
20 awards of financial assistance made under the program described in section 2 of this 2023
21 Act, including awards of funding from federal, state and other sources;**

22 **“(d) Recommendations for enhancing and leveraging opportunities for nonstate funding;**

23 **“(e) Recommendations on how to improve wildfire risk reduction capacity, regional col-
24 laboration, neighborhood protection cooperatives and community risk reduction organiza-
25 tional efficiencies;**

26 **“(f) Information about any barriers to completing the work supported by awards of
27 funding under section 2 of this 2023 Act;**

28 **“[(c)] (g) The amount of moneys expended during the year for the suppression of fires on
29 wildland-urban interface lands; and**

30 **“[(d)] (h) Any recommendations of the State Fire Marshal for legislative action, including, but
31 not limited to, current or future resource and funding needs for community risk reduction and es-
32 tablishing, administering or enforcing defensible space requirements.**

33 **“SECTION 8.** ORS 476.390 is amended to read:

34 **“476.390. As used in ORS 476.392, [and] 476.394[,] and 476.398 and section 4 of this 2023 Act,
35 ‘defensible space’ means a natural or human-made area in which material capable of supporting the
36 spread of fire has been treated, cleared or modified to slow the rate and intensity of advancing
37 wildfire and allow space for fire suppression operations to occur.**

38 **“SECTION 9. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appro-
39 priated to the State Fire Marshal, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, out of the General
40 Fund, the amount of \$10,000,000, for deposit in the Community Risk Reduction Fund estab-
41 lished by ORS 476.396, which may be expended for purposes described in section 2 of this 2023
42 Act.**

43 **“SECTION 10. This 2023 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
44 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2023 Act takes effect
45 on its passage.”.**

