



Legislative Fiscal Office
82nd Oregon Legislative Assembly
2024 Regular Session

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Bill Title: Relating to natural resources; prescribing an effective date.

Government Unit(s) Affected: Department of Consumer and Business Services, Department of Environmental Quality, Department of Forestry, Department of the State Fire Marshal

Summary of Fiscal Impact

This measure has a minimal fiscal impact.

Measure Description

The measure amends the activities of the Prescribed Fire Liability Pilot Program within the Department of Forestry (ODF), directing ODF to establish criteria for claims associated with prescribed burns. The Smoke Preparedness and Response Fund is established and any moneys in the fund are continuously appropriated to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for the purposes described in ORS 468A.833 (Wildfire Smoke). The Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS) is required to reimburse claims related to property damage resulting from prescribed fires or cultural burns conducted in accordance with applicable burn plans or permits.

The total amount paid from the Prescribed Fire Claims Fund, for any claim resulting from a prescribed fire or cultural burn, cannot exceed \$1,000,000. The aggregate amount disbursed for all claims under the program cannot exceed the total funds available in the fund. If the funds are insufficient to cover all claims, awards may be reduced accordingly. All moneys in the fund are continuously appropriated to DCBS for the Prescribed Fire Liability Pilot Program.

Fiscal Analysis

The measure establishes the Smoke Preparedness and Response Fund but does not appropriate General Fund for deposit into the new fund. DEQ may need to request authority to establish additional positions to distribute funds for grants related to wildfire smoke if future appropriations are made to the Smoke Preparedness and Response Fund.

A minimal fiscal impact is anticipated for existing staff at DCBS, ODF, and the Department of the State Fire Marshal.

Relevant Dates

DCBS shall allow a person to apply for a grant under the Fire Hardening Grant Program on or before December 31, 2025. This direction is repealed on January 2, 2026.

DCBS and DSFM shall report to committees or interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to natural resources on a proposal for a proactive home hardening program by September 15, 2024.

The measure takes effect on the 91st day after sine die.