

SB 1051 -3, -4 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Rules

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Meeting Dates: 3/24, 6/11

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure changes the appointment authority of the State Forester from the State Board of Forestry to the Governor. It also requires the State Forester or the Deputy State Forester to be a practical forester familiar with western conditions and experienced in organization for the prevention of forest fire.

Fiscal impact: The measure may have a fiscal impact, but a statement has not yet been issued.

Revenue impact: The measure may have a revenue impact, but a statement has not yet been issued.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-3 The amendment replaces the measure. It changes the appointment authority of the State Forester from the State Board of Forestry to the Governor. It establishes that the State Forester shall serve a four-year term and be eligible for reappointment. It requires the State Forester to have executive or operational experience, organizational management experience and expertise overseeing forest and wildfire management on western forestlands.

Fiscal impact: The measure may have a fiscal impact, but a statement has not yet been issued.

Revenue impact: The measure may have a revenue impact, but a statement has not yet been issued.

-4 The amendment replaces the measure. It changes the appointment authority of the State Forester from the State Board of Forestry to the Governor. It establishes that the State Forester shall serve a four-year term and be eligible for reappointment. It requires the State Forester to have organizational management experience, and either executive experience and expertise overseeing forest and wildfire management on western forestlands, or operational experience and expertise overseeing the same. It declares an emergency, effective on passage.

Fiscal impact: Minimal impact

Revenue impact: No impact

BACKGROUND:

State Forestry Department

The State Forestry Department consists of the State Forester, the Deputy State Forester (Deputy), Assistant State Foresters (Assistants), and other employees, acting under direction of the State Board of Forestry.

State Board of Forestry

The State Board of Forestry (Board) has seven individuals, including at least one from each of the state's three forest regions (Eastern; Northwest; and Southwest). No more than three members may derive a significant portion of their income from persons or organizations subject to regulation under the Oregon Forest Practices Act, and no member may have any relationship or pecuniary interest that would interfere with their representing the public interest. Members serve four-year terms, limited to two full consecutive terms. The Governor designates the chair.

State Forester

The Board appoints the State Forester, who must be a practical forester familiar with western conditions and

experienced in organization for the prevention of forest fires. The forester shall be the chief executive officer of the State Forestry Department. The forester shall hold office at the pleasure of the board, and shall act as its secretary. The board also fixes the compensation of the State Forester.

The State Forester may appoint a Deputy, Assistants, and other employees of the State Forestry Department, with Board approval. During the State Forester's absence or disability, all authority shall be exercised by the Deputy, or by the Assistants whom the State Forester or the Board has designated as Acting State Forester.

Executive Appointments

The Governor appoints individuals to serve on over 250 boards and commissions, and 117 of them require Senate confirmation, which are specified in Oregon Revised Statutes. The appointments requiring Senate confirmation are referred to as "executive appointments" (EAs). The EA process has three parts:

- the Governor submits the EA nominations to the Secretary of the Senate, who transmits them to the Senate Committee on Rules;
- the Senate Committee on Rules holds hearings to consider the nominations and votes on whether the nominations should move to the full Senate for confirmation; and
- the Senate holds a floor session to consider the nominations that are voted out of committee and then votes on whether to confirm.