

HB 4004 -3, -5, -7 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

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Sub-Referral To: House Committee On Revenue

Meeting Dates: 2/2, 2/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure exempts certain forestlands from back taxes upon disqualification from special assessment if the State Forester suspends the lands' stocking requirements due to insects or disease and approves an alternate reforestation plan.

Detailed Summary

- Exempts Western Oregon designated forestland, Eastern Oregon designated forestland, and small tract forestland from being subject to back taxes upon disqualification from special assessment when the disqualification is due to the following, caused by insects or disease:
 - The State Forester has suspended the density and stocking requirements for reforestation on the land, and
 - The land is subject to an alternate reforestation plan approved by the State Forester.
- Requires the landowner to submit the approved alternate plan to the county assessor by July 1 of the relevant property tax year in order to obtain the exemption.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-3 The amendment provides a technical correction to ensure the timeline language for a proposed final order on a water right or permit is internally consistent. It also removes the requirement for the director or principal assistant of the Oregon Water Resources Department to be a registered engineer experienced in water-related engineering and instead directs OWRD to employ such an engineer to carry out the department's functions.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

-5 The amendment expands the definition of Boat to include a combination of floatation devices already included in the definition unless otherwise designated by the U.S. Coast Guard.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

-7 The amendment authorizes the Oregon Water Resources Department to grant one extension of time not exceeding 10 years to certain permit holders if the development delay is due to certain permit delays or associated appeals.

Detailed Summary

Authorizes OWRD to grant one extension of time not exceeding 10 years to permit holders other than those holding a permit for municipal use, quasi-municipal, group domestic or group domestic expanded uses, to

complete construction and apply water beneficially, if the Department can determine that development delays under the water right permit resulted from one of the following:

- delays in permit issuance by another local, state, or federal government
- appeals of local, state, or federal decisions on a permit

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

BACKGROUND:

SW Oregon experiences increased mortality of Douglas Firs. Environmental changes, such as fire, drought, insect infestations, create landscapes that can no longer support the stocking density required to maintain forestland status designation for special tax assessments. Once being disqualified from special assessment status a property owner is subjected to paying back taxes.