

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources****Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued**Revenue:** Has minimal revenue impact**Action Date:** 04/21/15**Action:** Do Pass As Amended, Be Printed Engrossed, And Bill Be Referred To Ways And Means.**Meeting Dates:** 03/31, 04/09, 04/14, 04/16, 04/21**Vote:**

Yeas: 8 - Barreto, Esquivel, Frederick, Krieger, McKeown, McLain, Whitsett, Witt

Exc: 1 - Gorsek

Prepared By: Chuck Gallagher, Committee Administrator**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Requires Clackamas County (County) to establish Clackamas Forestry Product Cooperative Project (Project) as pilot program for forestry products grown on nonforest land. Allows Project to operate in areas outside city limits or within city that has elected to be involved with Project. Allows city to determine how Project will operate within city limits. Creates a regulatory system intended to grant immunity from federal and state antitrust laws to Project parties. Requires County to appoint advisory committee to make recommendations regarding structure and operation of the project and addressing the concerns of local governments and business interests within county. Requires marking of trees covered by agreements and exempts certain trees from state or local restrictions on tree removal. Allocates from Administrative Services Economic Development Fund, \$750,000 as grant to County for pilot project program development. Establishes requirements for county program model developed by County and requires County to report to Legislative Assembly on progress. Requires State Forester to establish procedures and guidelines for program and provide oversight. Requires State Forester set prices for purchase and sale under Project. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2015.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Value of older trees that are removed in suburban and urban areas
- Economic Development potential of harvesting
- Potential conflict with local tree ordinances

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Replaces measure.

BACKGROUND:

ORS Chapter 321 defines forestland as land that is being held or used for the predominant purpose of growing and harvesting trees of a marketable species and has been designated as forestland or land for which the highest and best use is the growing and harvesting of such trees. Nonforest lands include all other lands.

House Bill 2984 A would require Clackamas County to establish the Clackamas Forestry Product Cooperative Project as a pilot program to promote investment in forest production on nonforest lands and require the State Forester to establish guidelines for the program and provide oversight.