

D R A F T

SUMMARY

Creates program for periodic review and modernization of State Forestry Department structure and programs to ensure effectiveness and efficiency, including but not limited to department programs relating to wildfire.

Appropriates moneys for biennium ending June 30, 2021, for carrying out certain actions under modernization program.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to State Forestry Department modernization; and declaring an
3 emergency.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1. (1) The State Forestry Department shall implement and**
6 **administer a program to periodically review and modernize the struc-**
7 **ture and processes of the department as necessary to ensure depart-**
8 **ment ability to adequately meet changing demands for wildfire**
9 **prevention and wildfire response in this state, and to reduce the di-**
10 **version of department resources from other programs to wildfire pre-**
11 **vention and response. The periodic review shall include, but need not**
12 **be limited to, a comparison of department structure and processes**
13 **with the resource needs for adequate wildfire prevention efforts, ade-**
14 **quate response to actual or potential wildfire incidents and adequately**
15 **carrying out other department programs concurrently with depart-**
16 **ment wildfire programs. The comparison must include, but need not**
17 **be limited to, the efficiency and effectiveness of department structure**
18 **and processes regarding wildfire fighting personnel and equipment re-**

1 sources, reduction of the likelihood or likely severity of wildfires, an-
2 ticipation and addressing of actual or potential changes to resource
3 needs and carrying out other department programs concurrently with
4 wildfire programs.

5 (2) Subject to ORS chapters 240 and 243, the department shall peri-
6 odically modernize the department structure and programs as the de-
7 partment deems appropriate to improve efficiency and effectiveness
8 with regard to wildfires. Modernization of programs and structures
9 with regard to wildfires:

10 (a) May include, but not be limited to:

11 (A) Hiring, assigning, reassigning, classifying or reclassifying per-
12 sonnel who are trained to fight or prevent wildfires to create condi-
13 tions that promote the recruitment, retention and effective use of
14 those personnel; and

15 (B) Hiring, assigning, reassigning, classifying or reclassifying per-
16 sonnel not described in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph as the de-
17 partment deems appropriate to provide support services to personnel
18 engaged in fighting or preventing wildfires, support reductions in the
19 likelihood or likely severity of wildfires or enable the carrying out of
20 other department programs concurrently with wildfire programs.

21 (b) Shall ensure that:

22 (A) Wildfire programs are supplied with modern equipment in
23 amounts and types that the department deems appropriate for re-
24 sponding to actual or potential threats of wildfire in this state; and

25 (B) Equipment assignments within this state are modernized as
26 necessary to address changing needs, conditions and equipment re-
27 sources.

28 (c) Shall include efforts to develop or improve arrangements with
29 insurers and other private parties to encourage landowner cooperation
30 in reducing the likelihood or likely severity of wildfires.

31 (3) The department may retain the services of third party evalu-

1 ators to identify, analyze or make recommendations regarding the
2 modernization of all or part of department structures and programs
3 regarding wildfire, including but not limited to identifying, analyzing
4 and making recommendations regarding possible funding sources for
5 meeting wildfire personnel or equipment resource needs, wildfire pre-
6 vention needs and support personnel needs.

7 SECTION 2. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropri-
8 ation, there is appropriated to the State Forestry Department, for the
9 biennium ending June 30, 2021, out of the General Fund, the amount
10 of \$_____, which may be expended under the modernization program
11 described in section 1 of this 2020 Act for converting not more than
12 50 seasonal positions for personnel who are trained to fight or prevent
13 wildfires into permanent full-time positions that have duties including,
14 but not be limited to, the fighting or prevention of wildfires.

15 SECTION 3. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropri-
16 ation, there is appropriated to the State Forestry Department, for the
17 biennium ending June 30, 2021, out of the General Fund, the amount
18 of \$_____, which may be expended under the modernization program
19 described in section 1 of this 2020 Act to fill equipment resource needs
20 related to wildfires, including but not limited to aviation assets.

21 SECTION 4. This 2020 Act being necessary for the immediate pres-
22 ervation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is de-
23 clared to exist, and this 2020 Act takes effect on its passage.

24
