

# House Bill 2501

Sponsored by Representative WHITSETT; Senator WHITSETT (Presession filed.)

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Requires that annual report by State Forester to Emergency Board include private property loss information for fires of 1,000 acres or more.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to State Forester reporting of private property losses from fire; creating new provisions;  
3 and amending ORS 477.777.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** ORS 477.777 is amended to read:

6 477.777. (1) As part of the preparation of the budget forms submitted to the Oregon Department  
7 of Administrative Services pursuant to ORS 291.208 for the State Forestry Department, the State  
8 Forester shall prepare, in addition to any amounts budgeted for forest protection districts pursuant  
9 to ORS 477.205 to 477.281, a budget request for a General Fund appropriation for the following  
10 purposes:

11 (a) Providing funds for the purchase of emergency fire suppression costs insurance under ORS  
12 477.775.

13 (b) Acquiring and placing centrally managed fire suppression resources for statewide use.

14 (c) Acquiring fast-mobilizing, short-term contingency resources to be used based on predictions  
15 of severe fire weather, widespread lightning events or serious resource shortage due to a heavy fire  
16 season in this state, in the western region of the United States or nationally.

17 (d) Enhancing forest protection district resources in cases where land productivity or other  
18 economic factors seriously limit the ability of the forester to perform fire protection responsibilities.

19 (e) Mitigating forest patrol assessment rates in cases where land productivity or other economic  
20 factors seriously limit the ability of the owners of forestlands in the forest protection district to  
21 comply with ORS 477.210 (1).

22 (2) The State Forester shall utilize critical discretion in the expenditure of the funds provided  
23 to the State Forestry Department pursuant to the separate budget request required under subsection  
24 (1) of this section.

25 (3) The State Forester shall report to the Emergency Board, each year, after the close of the fire  
26 season, on:

27 (a) The nature and severity of the fire season;

28 (b) The moneys expended on fire suppression;

29 (c) The balance remaining from the biennial appropriation; and

30 (d) Any matters arising out of the fire season that may require attention or warrant future  
31 consideration by the board or the Legislative Assembly.

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

