

House Bill 3172

Sponsored by Representative MARSH (Pre-session 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**. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: The Act tells an agency to create a grant program for reducing wildfire damage. The program is for retrofitting homes and other structures. The Act gives money for the program. (Flesch Readability Score: 69.7).

Directs the Department of the State Fire Marshal to establish a grant program to facilitate the retrofitting of dwellings and accessory structures to reduce vulnerability to wildfire.

Appropriates moneys to the department out of the General Fund for the program.

Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to reducing the vulnerability of structures to wildfire; and declaring an emergency.

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

4 **SECTION 1. (1) In collaboration with the Department of Consumer and Business Ser-**
5 **vices, the Department of the State Fire Marshal shall establish and implement a grant pro-**
6 **gram called the Wildfire Prepared Structure Program to facilitate the retrofitting of existing**
7 **dwellings and accessory structures, as well as dwellings and accessory structures con-**
8 **structed following wildfire damage, to be resistant and resilient to wildfire.**

9 (2) To implement the program, the department shall:

10 (a) Publish a list of eligible retrofits and materials that reduce the vulnerability of
11 structures to wildfire and flying embers, as identified in section R327 of the Oregon Resi-
12 dential Specialty Code or other relevant industry best practices and standards.

13 (b) Determine the relative cost-effectiveness of the retrofits and materials.

14 (c) Determine which entities are eligible to apply for and administer moneys awarded
15 under the program.

16 (d) Establish ranking and criteria for awarding grants that include a preference for
17 projects that:

18 (A) Benefit persons who live in high wildfire exposure areas identified pursuant to ORS
19 477.490.

20 (B) Benefit persons in socially vulnerable communities.

21 (C) Benefit low-income persons who have demonstrated financial need.

22 (D) Benefit persons whose homes have been destroyed or significantly damaged by a
23 wildfire for which authority has been exercised under the Emergency Conflagration Act set
24 out in ORS 476.510 to 476.610.

25 (E) Are cost-effective and have a demonstrated positive ratio of benefits to costs.

26 (F) Have the potential to leverage federal or private funds.

27 (e) Establish a format by which grant recipients and persons administering the grant
28 must report to the State Fire Marshal.

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.

- 1 **(3) A grant recipient or person administering a grant shall:**
- 2 **(a) Complete a grant project funded under the program not more than one year after**
- 3 **receiving the grant moneys.**
- 4 **(b) Report to the State Fire Marshal in a format designated pursuant to subsection (2)(e)**
- 5 **of this section.**
- 6 **(4) The department may adopt rules as needed to implement this section, in consultation**
- 7 **with other agencies, local governments, nongovernmental organizations and the Wildfire**
- 8 **Programs Advisory Council established by ORS 476.690.**

9 **SECTION 2. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-**

10 **ated to the Department of the State Fire Marshal, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025,**

11 **out of the General Fund, the amount of \$_____, for carrying out the provisions of section 1**

12 **of this 2025 Act.**

13 **SECTION 3. This 2025 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**

14 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2025 Act takes effect**

15 **on its passage.**

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