
**Rural Development, Agriculture, &
Natural Resources Committee**

HB 1894

Brief Description: Concerning additional temporary duties for the wildland fire advisory committee.

Sponsors: Representatives Dent and Griffey.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Expands the scope of the report to be submitted by the Wildland Fire Advisory Committee to the Legislature.

Hearing Date: 2/13/19

Staff: Robert Hatfield (786-7117).

Background:

The 2018 supplemental operating budget directed the Commissioner of Public Lands to direct the Wildland Fire Advisory Committee (Committee) to review, analyze, and make recommendations on certain issues with regard to wildfire prevention, response, and suppression activities in the state. A status report on the Committee's efforts was due to the Legislature by December 31, 2018, and a report with the Committee's recommendations is due by November 15, 2019.

Summary of Bill:

The scope of the report prepared by the Wildland Fire Advisory Committee (Committee) pursuant to the 2018 supplemental operating budget is expanded to include the following elements:

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

- mapping of areas of the state east of the crest of the Cascade mountains that are not within an established fire protection district, nor subject to a planned wildland fire response;
- identification of, and recommendations on, which methods of protection may be best suited for these areas when considering values at risk, including wildlife habitat, available response resources, and geography in the area;
- recommendations on the appropriate level of training and the personal protective equipment standards for Rangeland Fire Protection Associations (RFPAs); and
- an estimate of the costs to establish and maintain RFPAs.

In addition, the Committee must make recommendations for appropriate fees to support the various identified methods of protection, including increasing fire protection district levies and fees collected by the Department of Natural Resources.

The expansion of the scope of the report is subject to the availability of funds appropriated for the expansion.

The report must be submitted to the Legislature, along with recommendations, by November 15, 2019.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.