

Natural Resources

5/3/2021

By Peggy Lynch, Natural Resources Coordinator and Natural Resources portfolio members

Budgets (Peggy Lynch & Team)

We await guidance from the U.S. Treasury on how Oregon can spend the federal dollars from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)—maybe by May 11th. We'll provide testimony on the Oregon Fish and Wildlife agency budget and then it's on to Forestry.

The League will provide testimony on the Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) budget ([HB 5009](#)) on May 3. The League supports specific programs around water and the establishment of a separate Habitat Division.

The League provided [testimony](#) in support of the Dept. of Agriculture budget ([SB 5502](#)) on April 21. The League focused on water quality, pesticide issues, addressing climate change and public health and safety in this agency. We highlighted our in-depth [study](#) on farmworkers done in 2000.

We did not testify on the Columbia River Gorge Commission budget ([SB 5508](#)), but listened to the concerns of the Friends of the Gorge as they continue to express frustration at the lack of enforcement by the Commission on development in the Gorge.

The League provided [testimony](#) on the Oregon Dept. of Energy (ODOE) Budget ([SB 5515](#)) in support of the Nuclear Safety and Emergency

Preparedness Division and for monies to support the work of the Oregon Global Warming Commission.

The League provided [testimony](#) in support of increasing funding and in support of fee increases for the Dept. of Environmental Quality (DEQ) budget ([SB 5516](#) and [5517](#)-fees) including the following bills:

[HB 2814A](#) addresses [dangerous diesel hotspots](#) that are not covered by 2019's [HB 2007](#) "Clean Diesel" bill. The bill would form a task force that will study policy options for these types of emissions. The EQC already has the authority to achieve what additional amendments might have stated. The [Fiscal Impact Statement](#) indicates the need for \$446,596 GF and 1 FTE. The League provided [testimony](#) on the original bill.

[HB 3090](#) is a bill that will fund the onsite septic loan program. Although the request is for \$2 million, we expect to see \$4-5 million allocated this session as wildfire rebuilding begins. The League and partners [support](#) and expects that grant funds might also be allocated.

[HB 3269](#) directs DEQ to study and develop strategies to fund its Emergency Response Program. LWVOR submitted [testimony](#) in support. Here is the [Fiscal Impact Statement](#).

[SB 286A](#) creates a new Environmental Justice Council at the Dept. of Environmental Quality. The League [supports](#). The [fiscal statement](#) notes \$3 million for DEQ and 3 FTE. Also in the fiscal is 1 each FTE for the Dept. of Land Conservation and Development, Dept. of Agriculture, and Parks with funding over \$200k for each agency.

[SB 581-1](#) removes the prohibition of deceptive labeling of recyclability and replaces it with a task force to study the issue and report to the 2022 Legislature. The [fiscal impact](#) of creating the task force is estimated to be \$150,973.

[SB 582-9](#) directs the Department of Environmental Quality to approve and oversee producer responsibility organizations and initiate studies of many aspects of the recycling system. The [fiscal impact](#) is estimated to be 1.8 million in 2021-23 and 10.8 million in 2023-25 but it would be funded through the producer fee system once fully running. If SB 582-9 is ultimately passed, [SB 581-1](#) becomes unnecessary as the truth in labeling task force is included in both.

The Dept. of Forestry budget ([SB 5518](#)) will be one of the more complicated ones this session since there are a number of policy bills with huge budget implications that will need to be considered before a final budget is approved. The Ways and Means Natural Resources Subcommittee will begin a discussion of this agency on May 5 by receiving a [report](#) from a contractor who was asked to review the business practices of the agency. Then the Subcommittee will receive a different contractor [report](#) on firefighting cost on May 10. They will do their budget presentation on May 12 and 17, with public testimony on May 19. The League is very engaged in this department's work on forestry practices, the nexus between logging and drinking water sources and climate change work as well as assuring their fiscal management is working for Oregonians. The League will provide testimony on our priorities. The following bills are a part of that broad discussion:

[HB 2795](#) would appropriate \$5,000,000 to the State Forestry Department to facilitate projects pursued under the Good Neighbor Authority Agreement that reduce wildfire risks.

[SB 762A](#) is the omnibus wildfire bill. The staff provided a section-by-section [summary](#) that also includes an explanation of stakeholder engagement in the wildfire risk mapping. The [Fiscal Impact Statement](#) was done quickly and the Dept. of Forestry is now reviewing their costs (reducing the number of agency staff) and providing a nexus with their biennial budget request and other bills being considered for funding in the Legislative Fiscal Office. The agency submitted a new fiscal

to the Legislative Fiscal Office on April 30. The League [supports](#) this bill because of the urgency of the work needed, but we expect intense evaluation of the fiscal so that we get the work done in a safe, effective and fiscally prudent manner.

[HB 2722A](#) is an alternate omnibus wildfire bill. Here is the [Staff Measure Summary](#) and the [Fiscal Impact Statement](#). Again, a more complete fiscal was provided on April 30. We have also been told that a new amendment may be provided for this bill, but that would have to be adopted by the Ways and Means Natural Resources Subcommittee if this bill is funded. The League does NOT support this bill.

[HB 2572](#) provides that spread of fire in forestland that is across an ownership boundary does not constitute prima facie evidence of fire burning uncontrolled if owners or operators of forestland on both sides of the ownership boundary agree in advance to conduct prescribed fire. The [Fiscal Impact Statement](#) requests 1 FTE and \$243, 717.

[HB 5010](#), the budget bill for the Dept. of Geology and Mineral Industries, was signed by the Governor on April 19th. LWVOR provided [testimony](#).

The League engages all year long on the work of the Dept. of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD). We provided [testimony](#) in support of their budget ([SB 5530](#)). The following policy bills are related to this agency's budget:

[HB 2488 A](#) now addresses inequities in Goal One, public involvement and has an \$800k fiscal. On March 8, LWVOR provided [testimony](#) in support of the original bill.

[HB 2520 A](#) relates to the state land use system's Energy Goal and requires LCDC to do yet another rulemaking on renewable energy projects on farmland and forestlands. The bill requests \$300k for rulemaking and, due to the work deadlines in the bill, has an emergency

clause so the bill would go into effect July 1, 2021. The League has taken no position on this bill.

[HB 2603A](#) would regulate undersea cable projects. The [Staff Measure Summary](#) explains the amended bill. The [Fiscal Impact Statement](#) indicates a need for DLCD to have .88 FTE and approximately \$200k. There could be an additional \$300k in expenses as the program moves forward.

The League provided verbal testimony in support of the budget for the Land Use Board of Appeals ([SB 5531](#)). We also [support HB 2110](#) that would change the fee structure for the agency. The policy bill had a hearing in Senate Natural Resources and Wildfire on April 26.

The League provided [testimony](#) in support of the budget ([SB 5539](#)) for the Dept. of State Lands (DSL). We are following other bills with budget implications, including bills related to waters of the state (seen here). We are also following on-going work around the Elliott State Forest.

[HB 3371 A](#) requires the Department of State Lands to consider potential risks in entering into agreements for authorized use of submerged and submersible lands and allows the department to require risk mitigation or insurance. The [Staff Measure Summary](#) explains the amended bill. Here is the [Fiscal Impact Statement](#) “light”.

Although we did not testify on the budget ([HB 5020](#)) for the Oregon State Marine Board (OSMB), we have continued to support their collection of fees for addressing aquatic invasive species and non-motorized boats. This agency works with DSL on abandoned boats and we [support SB 859](#) to provide additional funding to address this public health and safety issue.

The League provided [testimony](#) on the budget for the Oregon Parks and Recreation Dept. (OPRD) ([HB 5025](#)).

The League provided [testimony](#) on the budget ([SB 5545](#)) for the Water Resources Dept. (WRD).

We also provided testimony on multiple policy bills related to this department's work, including:

[HB 2018A](#), related to groundwater management. The League provided [comments](#). The preliminary [fiscal statement](#) indicates a \$2.4 million cost and 5.75 FTE.

[HB 2142](#), a bill that increases certain fees for water permitting, was sent to Ways and Means without recommendation as to passage. The League supports this critical funding bill. It splits the cost of processing permit applications 50% General Fund and 50% to permittees and would return 2.5 FTE to the department for permit processing.

[HB 2145A](#) addresses modernization of well construction and will establish a grant and loan program for repair or replacement of wells. The [Fiscal Impact Statement](#) does not include monies in the loan program so we hope there will be money added in Ways and Means. The League provided [testimony](#) in support and we have mentioned this bill during meetings of the Wildfire Recovery Committee.

[HB 3105A](#) would fund continuation of the four place-based planning water programs and provide staffing for them. The bill requests \$200k for the planning efforts. The League provided verbal testimony in support.

The League provided [testimony](#) on the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board budget ([HB 5037/5038](#)), particularly in support of a position related to the 100-year water vision and addressing climate change.

Bills with multiple agency budget implications:

[HB 2143 A](#) is a bill that will update the annual fees for hydroelectric projects and provides shared revenue for the Water Resources Dept., Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife and the Dept. of Environmental Quality. The League [supports](#) this critical funding bill. The [Fiscal Impact Statement](#) for the amended bill provides less than the agencies anticipated, leaving DEQ with about a \$500k shortfall in this area.

[HB 2251 A](#) is a bill that would fund regional water planning efforts and perhaps move the “water vision” forward. The League has been supportive of the Governor’s 100-year water vision and also supportive of place-based planning and provided verbal testimony expressing both support for portions of the bill as well as concerns about the lack of discussion on the policy included in the -1 amendment. Here is the [Fiscal Impact Statement](#). We understand that the Natural Resources Subcommittee of Ways and Means will hold an informational meeting around the Integrated Water Resources Strategy, the 100-year water vision and linkages among the various agency requests around water. In the meantime, the House Water Committee heard a [presentation](#) on April 29 from a group called “Oregon Water Justice” that addresses the needs of vulnerable communities.

[HB 3093 A](#) directs the Oregon Health Authority, in coordination with DEQ, to develop and implement a strategy for monitoring and responding to freshwater harmful algal blooms and to establish a technical advisory committee. The [Fiscal Impact Statement](#) requests \$260,189 for DEQ and \$232,645 for OHA and 1 position each. Although the League did not provide testimony, we support this work.

Bills outside of the 14 Natural Resource Agencies:

The League [supports](#) POP 417 of the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) budget ([HB 5024](#)). There are other areas of the OHA budget the League also supports. See other League reports for that information.

[SB 29](#) is a bill that would return the area around the State Capitol to the Dept. of Administrative Services from State Parks with funding for maintenance and has a \$3.5 million fiscal. The League supports.

[HB 2928A](#) would regulate the use of tear gas and pepper spray by police against crowds. The [Fiscal Impact Statement](#) indicates a cost of about \$1.5 million to the Oregon State Police.

[HB 2386](#) creates the Oregon Independent Science Review Board within the Institute for Natural Resources at Oregon State University. The League provided [testimony](#) in support. The estimated cost this biennium is \$272,780 General Funds.

[HB 3114](#) will provide approximately \$2 million in funding for the Oregon Ocean Science Trust and for others doing research on ocean acidification. The League sent [testimony](#) in support to the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee members.

[HB 3040 A](#) requires the Oregon Housing and Community Services Department (OHCS) to conduct a comprehensive study of system development charges (SDCs) in consultation with DLCD, DEQ, the Department of Revenue, and the Oregon Business Development Department per the [Staff Measure Summary](#). The League sent our [concerns](#) to committee members on the original bill. A [Fiscal Impact Statement](#) was issued sending the bill to Ways and Means.

See the Climate Report for details on the following bills (Shirley Weathers/Julie Chapman/Kathy Moyd/Claudia Keith):

[SB 318 A](#) permits the Public Utility Commission (PUC) to determine the resource adequacy for load serving entities. PUC estimates it will need two permanent positions for the initial development of rules and processes and for the ongoing oversight processes. The PUC would need two Utility and Energy Analyst 3 positions (1.46 FTE in 2021-23, 1.50 in 2023-35). While both positions would start out as full-time, one of them

would become part-time in 2023- 25. Funding for these positions would come from the annual fee imposed on public utilities by ORS 756.310. [SB 392 A](#) is a bill to study fugitive methane emissions from natural gas and has a \$300k [fiscal impact statement](#). The LWVOR supports.

[HB 2479 A](#) includes black carbon (soot) in the definition of global warming and requires DEQ to establish and maintain an estimate of human-caused black carbon emissions in Oregon, and to estimate the net impact of human-caused black carbon sources on climate change. The total cost of the contracted work is estimated at \$80,000 GF.

[HB 2842 A](#) provides money to help remediate homes and requests [\\$20 million](#) in grant funding to the Oregon Health Authority. “Healthy Homes” is [supported](#) by the League.

[HB 3278 A](#) establishes a study of the production of seaweed for cattle to reduce methane emissions. The bill’s [Fiscal Impact Statement](#) of \$320k requires ODFW and other agencies to work on this issue. The League [supported](#) this interesting bill.

[HB 3375 A](#) establishes the goal of planning for development of three gigawatts of commercial scale floating offshore wind energy projects within federal waters off Oregon Coast by 2030 per the [Staff Measure Summary](#). The League [supports](#).

Air Quality (Susan Mates)

[HB 3372 A](#), regarding chronic violators of environmental quality laws, is [supported](#) by the League. The bill has been referred to the Senate Energy and Environment Committee and a [public hearing](#) is scheduled for May 6.

DEQ will ask the Environmental Quality Commission (EQC) to approve rule amendments to establish a new diesel retrofit compliance program for medium- and heavy-duty trucks in Oregon. In 2019, the Oregon

Legislature passed [House Bill 2007](#), a bill the League [supported](#) and has been following as the rules were promulgated. DEQ has extended the public comment period to May 18, and there is a new email address for submitting comments: Commenters should include “Rulemaking Comment” in the email subject line. Submit emails to:

HDDRR2021@deq.state.or.us. You can view the rulemaking web page at: [HB 2007 Retrofit Compliance Rulemaking 2021](#).

The DEQ is conducting rulemaking to integrate and update DEQ’s air toxics programs: Cleaner Air Oregon and the Oregon State Air Toxics Program. The rulemaking will:

- Align the process for setting and revising toxicity values for toxic air contaminants.
- Update and integrate the Oregon State Air Toxics Program and the recently established Cleaner Air Oregon Program to create clarity and use of best available science to protect the health of all Oregonians, including sensitive and vulnerable populations.
- Clarify certain CAO requirements for facilities and address inefficiencies in the risk assessment process.
- DEQ seeks input from the rulemaking advisory committee on the estimated fiscal and economic impacts of the proposed rules in accordance with ORS 183.333. A copy of the proposed rules and materials from previous rules advisory committee meetings can be found on the [rulemaking web page](#).
- DEQ has appointed an advisory committee to review issues related to the Cleaner Air Oregon/Air Toxics Program Alignment rulemaking.

Radioactive Waste (Shirley Weathers)

[SB 246A](#), Radioactive Waste Disposal Definitions and Enforcement had a public hearing on April 26 in the House Energy & Environment Committee. The bill has been scheduled for a Work Session in House E & E on May 5 at 1 pm. LWVOR submitted [updated testimony](#) in support.

Coastal Issues

The next meeting of the Oregon Ocean Policy Advisory Council will be held on May 17, 2021. A meeting agenda and connection information will be posted on the www.OregonOcean.info Website when available.

Contact Information: Andy Lanier @

[HB 2605 A](#) brings Oregon in line with California and Washington in applying building codes to new public buildings in the Tsunami Inundation Zone. It passed the House and is now assigned to the Senate Housing and Development Committee.

[SB 126](#) would change the boundary of the South Slough National Estuarine Reserve to align with current property ownership. The League [supports](#), as does the Friends of South Slough whose members include members of LWV Coos County. The bill passed out of the Senate and had a hearing in the House Agriculture and Natural Resources on April 27.

DOGAMI

DOGAMI is holding a public hearing May 17, 3:30-5:00 p.m., and seeking public comments on rules for: Aggregate Mining on High Value Farmland in the Willamette Valley. (HB 2202 (2013)). Public Comments can be submitted until May 24, 5:00 p.m. Public Notice, Press Release, and proposed rule changes can be found here:

- https://www.oregongeology.org/mlrr/notices/20210427_NoticePublicNotice_Final.pdf
- <https://www.oregongeology.org/pubs/nr/press-release-2021-04-28.pdf>
- https://www.oregongeology.org/mlrr/notices/20210415_HB2202_NoticeFiled.pdf

Forestry (James Cannon/Josie Koehne)

Next week will start discussions on the Oregon Department of Forestry budget hearings:

- May 5th – Macias, Gini, and O’Connell (MGO) will provide a report on the ODF financials and billing procedures and will be reviewed in the Joint Subcommittee on Natural Resources: Oregon Department of Forestry Review and Assessment Report and Recommendations.
- May 10th – Earth Economics Report (this is the long-anticipated wildfire cost report) in the same committee.
- May 12&17 – ODF budget presentation [SB 5518](#)
- May 19 – public testimony on ODF budget where the League will provide testimony.

Next week, there will be amendments to [HB 2379](#) (timber tax bill). The Oregon Conservation network bill [HB 2357](#) may be heard in House Revenue next week.

[HB 3160](#) establishes an Oregon Wildfire Preparedness and Community Protection Fund and directs the State Fire Marshal, State Forestry Department and Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board to make expenditures from the fund for various activities related to restoration, protection and recovery from wildfires. It was sent to House Revenue without recommendation and may also end up in Ways and Means.

The League encourages you to consider “attending” a [Summit on Wildfires: Adapting to the Era of Megafires - A Community & Expert Summit on Catastrophic Wildfire in Oregon and Beyond](#). Wednesday May 5, & 12 at 10 am.

The 1st Administrative Draft of the Western Oregon State Forest Habitat Conservation Plan [is now available](#). This and other materials [can be located on the HCP website](#). Mark your calendars for May 6 from 2 – 5

p.m. for a virtual meeting open to the public to learn more about a Habitat Conservation Plan for state forestlands west of the Cascades, as well as the process to develop a companion Forest Management Plan. This meeting will provide an update on the Western Oregon State Forests Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, and the companion Forest Management Plan (FMP) & regional Implementation Plans (IP). [RSVP is requested.](#) Questions can be directed to HCP Project Manager Cindy Kolomechuk at .

See more information on Wildfire Recovery below.

Land Use/Housing (Peggy Lynch)

[SB 391 A](#), a bill that would allow accessory dwelling units to be constructed in certain rural residentially zoned lands with sideboards passed the Senate and now goes to the House for hearings in the Housing Committee. The League provided [testimony](#) in support of the original bill and followed up with [support](#) for the amendments.

In the meantime, [SB 16](#), a bill that would allow up to 200 acres of ranchland in Malheur County to be converted to “ranchettes” has been sent to House Rules. The League will continue to [oppose](#) and focus on both taking agricultural lands from production and our concern that these 100 homes would need to drill domestic “exempt wells”—using up to 15,000 gallons of water a day. The homes would also need septic systems. In Eastern Oregon water quantity and quality are both of grave concern. There are critical groundwater and groundwater management areas designated in Malheur County.

[HB 3072 A](#) is a bill that allows the governing body of a city, upon petition from a landowner, to amend city’s urban growth boundary (UGB) to allow inclusion of land to be solely used for workforce housing or both workforce housing and workforce commercial development, which is subject to an affordable housing covenant of no less than 60 years. Here

is the full [Staff Measure Summary](#). The bill has been sent to Rules without recommendation where the League hopes it will die.

See the Housing Report in other sections of this Legislative Report.

Parks and Recreation

[SB 289 A](#) passed the Senate floor. The League supports this bill as amended in recognition of the need for all people to feel safe on Oregon's public lands.

Toxics (Amelia Nestler)

[HB 2495 A](#), which updates the Toxic Free Kids Program, passed the House (47-8) and is now in the Senate Energy and Environment Committee. The League [supports](#) this bill as originally filed.

Water (Peggy Lynch/Amelia Nestler)

[HB 2218 A](#) directs the Oregon Business Development Department to study the impact of laws related to wetlands and economic activity. The bill had a hearing on April 22 in Senate Labor and Business and now has a referral to Ways and Means after. The League did not follow this bill in the House, but provided [testimony](#) in the Senate.

[HB 3293 A](#) authorizes the provider of a water project to make support available to local organizations and local governments for the purpose of developing local community engagement plans for water projects. Importantly, it recognizes that the engagement should reach out to formerly disadvantaged groups to be sure they have a voice in projects near their homes. The League provided testimony in [support](#). The bill has passed the House and had a hearing scheduled in the Senate Natural Resources and Wildfire Committee on May 3.

[HB 3166 A](#) is a bill related to water measurement. The League supports having good data in order for the Dept. of Water Resources to be able to process water right applications and transfers before, like surface water, groundwater is over appropriated. It was moved to House Rules for further work among the parties.

[SB 859](#) would increase the amount that the Oregon State Marine Board can hold in its Salvaged Vessel Sub-account to \$1 million. The bill had a hearing in Senate Rules where the League provided [testimony](#) in support. We expect the bill to move to Ways and Means in order to provide additional funding for responding to the 200+ abandoned vessels in Oregon's waters.

Wildfires (James Cannon/Josie Koehne/Peggy Lynch)

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery held an informational hearing on the post-fire hazardous tree removal program on April 28 that turned out to be highly contentious! Ted Sickinger of the Oregonian published two stories about the program, one [published just before the meeting on April 28, and another about the meeting published on April 29](#), about the whistleblower testimonies in the meeting concerning alleged mismanagement of the program. The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) was assigned the task of 1) removing dead or dying hazardous trees along public roads after the devastating wildfires and 2) removing ash and debris from burnt homesites, managed by ODOT's Mac Lynde, Deputy Administrator, Delivery & Operations Division. ODOT hired a post-disaster recovery company based in Florida with FEMA-billing experience and hired CDR Maguire to handle on-the-ground operations, such as marking and cutting down trees, with the assistance from a Portland-based environmental consultancy firm, Mason, Bruce & Girard who established the guidelines and protocols to use. Testimony was heard from several certified Oregon arborists who had been hired or visited sites where trees were marked or removed that they considered not hazardous in

their estimation. Sen. Prozanski called for a halt to all ODOT tree removing operations until these allegations of mismanagement could be investigated. Sen. Golden has made that a formal request to the Governor.

Then on April 30, the House Special Committee on Wildfire Recovery had their own informational hearing on the Hazardous tree removal program. There was testimony from one program monitor who witnessed and reported abuses to his supervisors which he believes were ignored and reported that no arborists doing quality control measures were on site. Two property owners from the Otis area reported over-marking and removal of mature trees on private forestland without notification despite regulations requiring notification who were unaware of options to address the issues. These contractors worked on behalf of Pacific Power and Light. One of the issues that has been brought forward is there are multiple contractors working for different agencies and private landowners and it is hard for the general public to know who is responsible.

The Friday hearing in Chair Clem's committee also focused on the great watershed restoration happening in the McKenzie watershed with the help of ODOT's hazardous tree removal program and their much-needed assistance. Renee Davis, Deputy Director, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Jared Weybright, Executive Director, McKenzie Watershed Council, and Karl Morgenstern, Drinking Water Source Protection Coordinator, Eugene Water & Electric Board each testified on the importance of the ODOT Hazardous tree removal program and it was needed and going well in their areas. Part of this discussion is around the funding request of \$86 million for such restoration work and may be seen in an upcoming funding request bill (HB 3127).

This House informational hearing ended on a very different note from the Senate meeting on April 28. The local watershed council members are working in close partnership with landowners and other agencies and are doing excellent work in post-fire recovery work planting trees,

and preventing erosion near streams feeding the McKenzie River and they did not want to see any halt to ODOT work that would delay their recovery work and further stress those impacted from the Holiday Farm fires. They testified that ODOT's work removing hazardous trees was vital to the safety of those who were carrying out the watershed restoration work. It is clear that there are different views of the enormous amount of work being done and the thousands of trees being removed and that better processes need to be set to both protect the public's safety and Oregon's important tree canopies.

On April 28, the [Senate Committee in Finance and Revenue](#) had a public hearing on Rep. Marsh's wildfire property tax abatement bill, [HB 2341](#), which authorizes the county tax collector in county covered by state of emergency to prorate taxes imposed on property and another wildfire related bill [HB 2607](#) that exempts residential construction taxes on housing that replaces housing destroyed or damaged by fire or other emergency event or situation.

Look for permanent rules from the Land Conservation and Development Commission in May as the temporary rules adopted to help with wildfire recovery run out of their 180-day time limit.

[HB 2289 A](#) allows owners of houses and buildings destroyed by the 2020 fires declared to take advantage of a fast-track process that allows them to rebuild in compliance with 2008 regulations, rather than more restrictive and costly current regulations. It was sent to the House floor with a do pass recommendation.

[HB 2174 A](#) allows county tax collectors to prorate property taxes during a year that qualifying fire damage occurs. The bill is scheduled for a public hearing in the Senate Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery on May 3.

[HB 3127](#) is a bill (with significant amendments to come) expected to be heard in this committee as early as next Friday to provide the monies needed to help the state, local governments and victims of the Labor Day

Fires recover. A [report](#) with preliminary costs of over \$1 billion was presented by the Governor's Wildfire Recovery Director Matt Garrett on April 12.