
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anna Caballero, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 1531 (Committee on Emergency Management) - Office of Emergency Services: comprehensive wildfire mitigation program

Version: July 14, 2025

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: August 18, 2025

Policy Vote: G.O. 15 - 0, N.R. & W. 7 - 0

Mandate: No

Consultant: Janelle Miyashiro

Bill Summary: AB 1531 requires, by July 1, 2026, the California Department of Insurance (CDI) to appoint two members to and participate on the California Wildfire Mitigation Program (CWMP) Board.

Fiscal Impact:

- Unknown potentially significant costs, likely ranging in the tens to low hundreds of thousands of dollars, for CDI to appoint members to and participate on the CWMP Board (Insurance Fund).
- The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) and the Office of Emergency Services (OES) do not anticipate a fiscal impact.

Background: AB 38 (Wood, Chapter 391, Statutes of 2019) requires OES to enter into a joint powers agreement with Cal FIRE to develop and administer a comprehensive wildfire mitigation program to encourage cost-effective structure hardening and retrofitting and to facilitate vegetation management, as specified. Known as the CWMP, this effort encourages cost-effective wildfire resilience measures to create fire-resistant homes, businesses, public buildings, and public spaces. Mitigation measures such as home hardening, vegetation management, defensible space, and other fuel modification activities provide neighborhood and community-wide benefits against wildfire.

The CWMP Board meets every third Tuesday of every month at the California Natural Resources Agency building in downtown Sacramento. The meetings are open to the public except when specifically noticed otherwise in accordance with the Bagley-Keene open Meeting Act. The virtual meeting waiting room opens 15 minutes before via Zoom.

Proposed Law: Requires, by July 1, 2026, CDI to be added to, and appoint two members to, the CWMP Board created by the joint powers agreement between OES and CAL FIRE.

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