

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, statement not yet issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means
Vote:	6 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	Boquist, Clem, Dingfelder, Macpherson, Smith P., Roblan
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Maurer
Prepared By:	Beth Patrino, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	2/1, 3/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Creates the Oregon Food Policy Council. Directs the Council to review state and local food system issues for the purpose of recommending improvements to the linkage between food producers, consumers and policy makers. Directs the Council to focus on working with the Department of Agriculture to encourage the streamlining of regional food purchasing and delivery policies and practices that authorize and encourage public institutions to give preference to regionally produced foods. Authorizes the Council to develop recommendations to improve food security and systems and create economic and health benefits. Directs the Department of Agriculture and the Housing and Community Services Department to provide staff support for the Council.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Role of a statewide food policy council
- Experiences with state food policy councils in other states
- Proposed membership and role of the Council

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

- Establishes the Oregon Food Policy Council in the Department of Agriculture.
- Reduces Council membership appointed by the Governor from 16 to 15. Modifies language describing members. Deletes environmental organization representative.
- Adds one member from House of Representatives and one member from Senate to Council in advisory role.
- Clarifies role of Council.
- Prohibits Council from making recommendations on agricultural production or food processing practices.
- Requires annual report to Legislative Assembly.
- Sunsets Council on January 2, 2012.

BACKGROUND: In 2004, the Oregon Hunger Relief Task Force issued “Act to End Hunger: 40 Ways in 5 Years to Make a Difference.” One recommendation in the report is the creation of a statewide food policy council to assess statewide needs, propose solutions and provide coordination among local food policy councils. HB 2288-A establishes the Oregon Food Policy Council in the Department of Agriculture and directs the Council to review state and local food systems for the purpose of recommending improvements related to the linkage between food producers, consumers and policy makers. The bill sunsets the Council on January 2, 2012.