

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass
Vote: 4 - 0 - 1
Yeas: George L., Monnes Anderson, Starr, Metsger
Nays: 0
Exc.: Deckert
Prepared By: Janet Adkins, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 4/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Abolishes the Western Oregon Onion Commission.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Fewer acres in onion production in western Oregon
- Continued health of the onion industry statewide

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Commodity commissions fund promotion, research, and education functions on behalf of agricultural producers through assessments on products at the point of first sale. The Western Oregon Onion Commission was formed in the 1980s in response to an increasing number of acres being placed in production and a desire to “brand” the specialty red onion. In recent years, acres in western Oregon onion production have declined to fewer than 800 acres and twelve growers. The commission requested House Bill 2580 because it is not cost effective to run the commission and assessment system. House Bill 2580 would allow growers to revert back to a voluntary commission.