

**REVENUE:** May have revenue impact, statement not yet issued

**FISCAL:** Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

---

<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by prior reference
<b>Vote:</b>	5 - 0 - 0
<b>Yeas:</b>	Kruse, Metsger, Morse, Westlund, Walker
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	0
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Dana Richardson, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	5/29, 5/31

---

**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Creates Task Force on Food Safety. Requires task force report, which may include legislative recommendations, to legislative interim agriculture or health related committee by February 3, 2008. Sunsets task force upon opening of next regular biennial legislative session. Declares an emergency; effective upon passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Task force membership
- Referral to Joint Ways and Means Committee
- Ability of legislative interim committees to handle issues assigned to various task forces
- Staffing and continuity of interim legislative committees

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Adds that one task force member will be a Senator appointed by the President of the Senate.

**BACKGROUND:** While the food supply in the United States is considered to be among the safest in the world, the federal Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDCP) estimates that 76 million people get sick, more than 300,000 are hospitalized, and 5,000 Americans die each year from food-borne illness. According to the CDCP, preventing food-borne illness and death remains a major public health challenge.

On March 16, 2007, Menu Foods, Inc., a private-label pet food manufacturer based in Streetsville, Ontario, Canada, recalled dog and cat foods after many pets developed kidney failure. The food was produced at two facilities between Dec. 3, 2006 and March 6, 2007 and was sold under nearly 100 different brand names. Since then, several other companies voluntarily withdrew products from the market. By April 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Food and Drug Administration had determined that rice protein concentrate imported from China, contaminated with melamine and melamine-related compounds, was the culprit.

The Task Force on Food Safety would study issues regarding the safety of human and animal food production, manufacture, distribution, and sales in Oregon. Membership would include three members appointed by the Director of Agriculture, one member of the House of Representatives, one member of the Senate, and the State Veterinarian. The Department of Agriculture is charged with staffing the task force.