

**REVENUE: No revenue impact**

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

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**Action:** Do Pass  
**Vote:** 5 - 0 - 2  
**Yeas:** Clem, Dingfelder, Macpherson, Smith P., Roblan  
**Nays:** 0  
**Exc.:** Boquist, Maurer  
**Prepared By:** Beth Patrino, Administrator  
**Meeting Dates:** 5/17

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Authorizes the State Director of Agriculture and an appointee of the Director of the Department of Human Services to enter into memoranda of understanding or other intergovernmental agreements to further collaboration between state and federal agencies and increase state input regarding biopharmaceutical crop issues and requirements of specific interest to the state.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Interim Biopharmaceutical Ad Hoc Committee recommendations
- No biopharmaceutical crops currently being grown in Oregon

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** Senate Bill 570 (2005) proposed a moratorium on biopharmaceutical crops in Oregon. A biopharmaceutical crop is a genetically engineered plant that produces therapeutic compounds, such as vaccines and enzymes. Although the measure did not pass, discussions about the issue led the Governor and the Senate to convene a Biopharmaceutical Ad Hoc Committee to review biopharmaceutical (biopharm) concerns and develop recommendations. These concerns and recommendations have subsequently been published as *Oregon Biopharmaceutical Committee: Policy Statement & Recommendations*.

Currently, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) regulates biopharmaceutical crops. State officials with Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) receive copies of the federal permit applications with confidential business information withheld. State review of these permits is limited to compliance with existing state plant pest and disease quarantines. Although Oregon has not received any applications for biopharm crops in the last decade, several dozen trials of bioengineered crops occur in the state each year.

Senate Bill 234-A authorizes state officials to enter into memoranda of understanding with USDA to further collaboration between Oregon and federal agencies that regulate biopharmaceutical plants. Under such memoranda, the measure authorizes the state agencies keep confidential any permit application and related information received from the Biotechnology Regulatory Service of the USDA's Animal and Plant Inspection Service. The measure allows the Department to implement a state permit review and oversight system paid for by the applicants to cover costs. Fees charged for this state service would be capped at \$10,000.