

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass and Rescind the Subsequent Referral to the Committee on Ways and Means
Vote:	6 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	Clem, Dingfelder, Macpherson, Maurer, Smith P., Roblan
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Boquist
Prepared By:	Beth Patrino, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	5/1, 5/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Creates a voluntary lifetime brand inspection for Equidae (horses, mules and donkeys). Expands authority of Department of Agriculture to collect brand inspection fees. Removes brand inspection certification requirements for livestock other than cattle. Replaces fee refund system with fee exemption for certain cattle transport. Increases the cap for brand inspection on per head and per hide basis. Declares emergency, effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Brand Advisory Committee
- Fee support for program
- Effect of fee levels on small producers

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment

BACKGROUND: Oregon first instituted a branding program in 1894 to establish ownership and prevent theft of livestock. The responsibility for the program was given to the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) when the Department was created in 1931. The program is supported solely by fees. In 2005, in response to a decreasing number of brand inspections, increased operating costs and a declining fund balance, ODA brought together a Brand Advisory Committee to provide guidance to the department. The committee included representatives from dairy, beef, feedlot, Equine, and livestock market representatives. SB 236A incorporates the recommendations from the committee to provide stable funding to the livestock identification program. The measure also includes revisions to modernize and clarify the intent of the statutes.

SB 236A removes the requirement for a brand inspection and certification of inspection from livestock other than cattle and allows ODA to establish a voluntary inspection service of Equidae for a \$30 lifetime fee. The measure increases the fee on cattle from \$5 per head to \$10 per head when the inspection certificate is valid for more than eight days. If the brand certificate is valid for eight days or less, the fee increases from its current range of between 50 cents and 85 cents to a range of 85 cents to \$1 per head. The fee for hide inspections is lowered from a maximum of \$3.75 to a maximum of \$2 per hide.

Senate Bill 236A also prohibits the use of an unrecorded brand on livestock and knowingly presenting cattle for inspection that are not owned by the person. ODA is allowed to waive service fees when appropriate.

5/8/2007 5:19:00 PM

This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.