

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

**FISCAL:** Fiscal statement issued

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**Action:** Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

**Vote:** 4 - 0 - 1

**Yeas:** Bates, Beyer, Prozanski, Avakian

**Nays:** 0

**Exc.:** Atkinson

**Prepared By:** Sue Marshall, Administrator

**Meeting Dates:** 1/25, 3/22

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

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Importance of mandatory branding to trace point of origin for livestock for disease investigations
- The shift to voluntary branding for horses to make program sustainable

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Allows rather than requires the Department of Agriculture to assess and collect service fee up to a maximum of \$25. Makes grammar and language clarifications requested by the department.

**BACKGROUND:** Oregon first instituted a branding program in 1894 to establish ownership and prevent theft of livestock. Authority for the branding program came under the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) when the department was formed in 1931. The branding program is supported solely by its program fees. The revisions proposed in Senate Bill 236-A were developed and supported by the Brand Inspection Advisory Committee, created by ODA with representation from dairy, beef, feedlot, Equine and livestock market representatives.

Senate Bill 236-A 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 (horses, mules, and asses) 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 inspection is lowered on per hide charges from a maximum of \$3.75 to a maximum of \$2 per hide.

Senate Bill 236-A 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.

3/26/2007 12:00:00 PM

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