

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

**FISCAL:** Fiscal statement issued

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**Action:** Do Pass and Rescind the Subsequent Referral to the Committee on Ways and Means

**Vote:** 5 - 1 - 1

**Yeas:** Clem, Dingfelder, Macpherson, Maurer, Roblan

**Nays:** Smith P.

**Exc.:** Boquist

**Prepared By:** Beth Patrino, Administrator

**Meeting Dates:** 5/15, 5/17

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Increases the maximum permissible license fees for certain weighing and measuring instruments and devices. Applies to fees established for licensing periods beginning on or after July 1, 2011 and before July 1, 2016. Declares emergency, effective upon passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Whether program should be supported by General Funds
- History of fee support

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

**BACKGROUND:** The Department of Agriculture has the authority to impose fees to pay for their cost to inspect commercial weighing devices. The accuracy of these devices assures equity in trade and protection of consumers in commercial and industrial transactions. This program is predominately supported by fees assessed to industry and business. The fees for this program were last increased in 1992.

Senate Bill 238-A provides additional differentiation between the various weighing devices based on analysis of the effort expended by the Department to inspect the devices. The Department's objective is to more equitably assign fees based on the effort that is expended by the Department. Senate Bill 238-A incrementally increases fees set for some of the weighing instruments and devices.