

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

CARRIER:

House Committee on Agriculture, Natural Resources and Rural Communities

REVENUE: No revenue impact**FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued**

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by prior reference
Vote:	8 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Beyer, Gilliam, Krieger, Roblan, Schaufler, VanOrman, Wingard, Clem
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Cheyenne Ross, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	4/2, 4/9, 4/14

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Directs Department of Education to provide reimbursement to school districts that serve Oregon food products as part of U.S. Department of Agriculture's National School Lunch Program or School Breakfast Program. Directs Department of Education to award grants for development of food-, garden- and agriculture-based educational activities. Allocates money from Administrative Services Economic Development Fund to State Department of Agriculture for such reimbursements and grants. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Oregon one of only two states that doesn't contribute to school meals; lack of funding is the primary reason
- State contribution would open the door to other monies that are available
- Not just improve nutrition but decrease number of hungry children; highest risk kids benefit the most
- Parallel jobs for liaisons with schools were established at the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Education in 2007 as part of groundwork
- Economic development issue; multiplier effect; inspired purchasing across all economic sectors
- Greatly increases community/neighborhood involvement with its schools
- Information compiled from results of actual demonstration/pilot project
- Win/win: good for kids, good for agriculture
- Cafeteria the "most neglected classroom"

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Broaden subject matter eligible for grant funding. Sets amount of reimbursement and conditions receipt of same.

BACKGROUND: "Farm to school" programs enable schools to offer fresh, locally-sourced products in their cafeterias, and design corresponding hands-on curriculum that may include farm visits, gardening, cooking, composting, and recycling. These programs aim to promote mutually-beneficial educational and economic development by focusing on children's long-term health habits and academic achievement while supporting local farmers and food processors, both big and small.

4/21/2009 2:49:00 PM

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