

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass with Amendments to the A-Engrossed Measure (Print B-Eng.)

Vote: 5 - 0 - 0

Yeas: George, Schrader, Starr, Verger, Metsger

Nays: -

Exc.: -

Prepared By: Jim Stembridge, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 5/28

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires State Department of Agriculture to adopt rules establishing standards for the identity, quality, and labeling of olive oil.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Allergies to oils mixed with or substituted for olive oil
- Olive-growing in Oregon
- Olive oil standards in Connecticut
- Recent New York Times study results on the quality of olive oil

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Deletes specific standards for olive oil. Deletes penalty.

BACKGROUND: Proponents contend that current federal olive oil standards do not reflect modern health and safety concerns. Olive oils may currently contain other oils, including soy and peanut oils, without informing consumers. Persons with serious food allergies could be at risk. House Bill 2893-B directs the Oregon Department of Agriculture to establish olive oil content and labeling standards for Oregon. The state of Connecticut recently adopted similar provisions.

