

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

**FISCAL:** May have fiscal impact, statement not yet issued

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**Action:** Without Recommendation as to Passage to the Committee on Agriculture, Natural Resources and Rural Communities and then Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by prior reference

**Vote:** 7 - 0 - 2

**Yeas:** Cowan, Freeman, Huffman, Maurer, Olson, VanOrman, Tomei

**Nays:** 0

**Exc.:** Boone, Dembrow

**Prepared By:** Keely West, Administrator

**Meeting Dates:** 3/16

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Allocates funds to the Department of Human Services for use in voucher programs for low income seniors and Women, Infants and Children (WIC) recipients to purchase fresh Oregon grown fruits, vegetables and herbs from farmer's markets and roadside stands.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Referral to House Committee on Agriculture, Natural Resources and Rural Communities

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

**BACKGROUND:** Oregon operates a farm direct nutrition program to benefit low-income, nutritionally at risk senior citizens (identified as receiving Medicaid and/or food stamps) and families with young children enrolled in the WIC program. Clients receive funds as "checks" to spend at Oregon farmer's markets and farm stands and only to purchase locally grown fresh fruits, vegetables and cut herbs. Participating farmers deposit or cash the checks at their own banks. The program runs from June 1 through October 31 each year.