

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass
Vote: 5 - 0 - 0
Yeas: George, Schrader, Starr, Verger, Metsger
Nays: -
Exc.: -
Prepared By: Jim Stembridge, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 2/16, 2/23

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Authorizes Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODOA) to enter into contracts with foreign entities for agricultural and horticultural products and processes, including inspection and testing.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provision of explicit authority
- Export trends
- Addition of foreign entities to ODOA contracting authority
- Fiscal impact statement

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Currently, the Oregon Department of Agriculture's Export Service Center (ESC) assists companies with pre-export analysis and certification of food products. The ESC is a certified customs laboratory for U.S. foods shipped to Japan, Korea, and Taiwan. In addition, seventeen other countries accept ESC analytic results in lieu of testing at the destination port. The ESC offers consultative and analytic services in four primary program areas: GMO (genetically modified organism) detection, pesticide residue, food chemistry, and microbiology.

According to the agency, SB 185 provides clear authority for the Oregon Department of Agriculture to contract for inspecting and testing imported and exported agricultural products. These monitoring tools determine levels of compliance with federal and state standards established for food safety and protection commodities, plants, ingredients, and manufactured food products, resulting in increased acceptance of products exported from Oregon and imported into Oregon.