

A-Engrossed
Senate Bill 629

Ordered by the Senate March 25
Including Senate Amendments dated March 25

Sponsored by Senator FERRIOLI; Senators ATKINSON, BOQUIST, NELSON, TELFER, WHITSETT, Representatives BARKER, BOONE, ESQUIVEL, GILMAN, HUFFMAN, JENSON, KRIEGER, OLSON, SCHAUFLE, G SMITH, STIEGLER, THOMPSON, WHISNANT, WITT (at the request of Don Farrar)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure.

Requires State Department of Agriculture to establish program for issuing grants to counties for noxious weed control. [*Allocates and limits expenditure of lottery funds for 2009-2011 biennium for purpose of carrying out grant program.*]

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to noxious weed control; and declaring an emergency.

3 Whereas more than \$83 million in losses are caused in Oregon annually by noxious weeds; and

4 Whereas noxious weeds are an escalating threat to the 80 percent of Oregon land not yet in-
5 fested with noxious weeds; and

6 Whereas the Oregon Noxious Weed Strategic Plan identified stable, reliable funding for county
7 weed programs as a key missing component in the Oregon response to noxious weeds; now, there-
8 fore,

9 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

10 **SECTION 1. The Legislative Assembly finds and declares that:**

11 **(1) Noxious weeds present a serious threat that adversely affects industries vital to the**
12 **Oregon economy, including but not limited to the agriculture, forestry, fishing and tourism**
13 **industries;**

14 **(2) Failure to control the spread of noxious weeds in Oregon will reduce the productivity**
15 **of Oregon industries and adversely affect marketing by those industries, resulting in a loss**
16 **of business and the loss of existing jobs;**

17 **(3) The use of aggressive measures to control the spread of noxious weeds will improve**
18 **the actual and perceived quality of Oregon products and further the promotion and expansion**
19 **of markets for those products; and**

20 **(4) The control of noxious weeds through county weed control district programs will**
21 **benefit Oregon's economy by preventing the loss of existing jobs, by promoting and expanding**
22 **Oregon business and by preventing the decline of Oregon business.**

23 **SECTION 2. (1) The State Department of Agriculture shall establish a grant program for**
24 **the purpose of assisting counties in carrying out weed control district duties, functions and**
25 **powers under ORS 570.515 to 570.600. The department may use no more than 10 percent of**
26 **any moneys appropriated, allocated or otherwise designated for the purpose of carrying out**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted.
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 **this section to pay the administrative expenses of the grant program.**

2 **(2) A county qualifies for a grant under this section if the county has:**

3 **(a) Established a weed control district under ORS 570.515 to 570.600;**

4 **(b) Provided county moneys to carry out the duties, functions and powers of the district**
5 **in an amount that equals or exceeds the grant amount available to the county under this**
6 **section; and**

7 **(c) Complied with any department rules adopted under this section.**

8 **(3) The department may establish rules for carrying out the grant program described in**
9 **this section. The rules may include, but need not be limited to, rules:**

10 **(a) Requiring that priority in the use of grant moneys be given to noxious weed control**
11 **projects that restore, enhance or protect water quality, watersheds and riparian habitats;**
12 **and**

13 **(b) Requiring a participating county to report to the department concerning the use of**
14 **grant moneys by the county.**

15 **SECTION 3. This 2009 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**
16 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2009 Act takes effect**
17 **on its passage.**

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