

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action:	Do Pass
Vote:	8 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Boone, Cowan, Esquivel, Johnson, Schaufler, Sprenger, Clem, Jenson
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Liz Puskar, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	2/4, 2/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) to adopt rules pursuant to ORS.616.205 to 616.385, which relate to sale of adulterated, misbranded, or imitation foods, establishing standards of identity, quality requirements, and labeling requirements for honey sold in Oregon.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Availability of imported and tainted honey for sale to Oregon consumers
- Effect of new regulations on small beekeepers and honey producers
- Need for ODA to have additional powers to enforce standards and labeling requirements with regard to honey

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: There are over 300 unique varieties of honey produced in the United States. Honey differs in flavor and color depending upon the floral source from which the nectar is extracted from the honey bee. ODA has adopted rules relating to types and grades of honey, including standards and definitions for density, grades, color, tolerance, and labeling. However, Oregon law does not currently regulate honey pursuant to ORS.616.205 to 616.385, which relate to the sale of adulterated, misbranded, or imitation foods. In 2001, the Codex Alimentarius Commission (established by the World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) adopted standards and definitions applicable to honey.