76th OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY – 2011 Regular Session MEASURE: HB 2947 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY CARRIER: Sen, Hass

Senate Committee on Environment & Natural Resources

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass **Vote:** 5 - 0 - 0

Yeas: Hass, Olsen, Prozanski, Thomsen, Dingfelder

Nays: 0 Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Beth Patrino, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 5/3

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:

- Concern regarding false labeling of honey
- Regulations adopted by other states

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. The 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.