

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by prior reference

Vote: 6 - 0 - 2

Yeas: Frederick, Greenlick, Harker, Thompson, Gilliam, Tomei

Nays: 0

Exc.: Parrish, Weidner

Prepared By: Jennifer Kellar, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 3/21, 3/28

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Appropriates \$300,000 from the General Fund to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) for the purposes of providing fresh Oregon-grown fruits, vegetables and herbs from farmers' markets and roadside stands to eligible individuals through the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2011.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Program provides \$20 in the form of \$4 checks for WIC families
- Oregon currently serves approximately 18 percent of WIC participants who are eligible for Farm Direct program
- History of Oregon's Farm Direct Nutrition Program
- Positive impacts of program for farmers and recipients
- United States Department of Agriculture ranks Oregon among top five states in the nation for the highest rate of hunger
- Program establishes and promotes healthy eating patterns
- Impact of Governor's Recommended Budget program reductions
- State funding reductions could result in potential loss federal program dollars

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: WIC is the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children. This is a public health program designed to improve health outcomes and influence lifetime nutrition and health behaviors in an at-risk population. Nutrition education is the basis of the WIC program. The Oregon WIC Program serves all thirty-six Oregon counties through thirty county health departments, two Native American tribal organizations, one migrant health center and one Head Start organization.

The Oregon WIC Program aims to provide public health leadership in promoting: nutrition education; breastfeeding promotion; supplemental nutritious foods; and partnerships with and referral to other public and private community groups.

4/8/2011 2:22:00 PM

This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.