

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by Prior Reference
Vote:	8 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Boone, Cowan, Esquivel, Johnson, Schaufler, Sprenger, Clem, Jenson
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Beth Herzog, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	3/11, 3/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Declares noxious weeds a threat to Oregon economy. Requires Department of Agriculture (ODA) to establish grant program to assist county weed control districts. Requires county to establish a weed control district and provide matching funds in order to be eligible for grant. Authorizes ODA to establish grant program rules that define reporting requirements or priority uses of funds. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Noxious weeds can pose threat to human health
- County weed control districts play important role in local weed management
- Encourage counties without weed control districts to establish them

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Removes requirement that ODA may use no more than 10 percent of appropriated moneys for administrative expenses. Authorizes ODA to adopt methodology for recovery of direct and indirect costs incurred as administrative expenses.

BACKGROUND: The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) Noxious Weed Control Program provides coordination and management to control state noxious weeds. According to ODA, a noxious weed is any plant classified by the Oregon State Weed Board to be injurious to public health, agriculture, recreation, wildlife, or property. A study of the economic impact of 21 of the 99 listed noxious weeds in Oregon found that they reduce Oregon's income by \$83 million annually. The Oregon Noxious Weed Strategic Plan identifies funding as the primary challenge for effective noxious weed control programs. The estimated cost for a county program is \$150,000 per year.