

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Carrier – House: Rep. Huffman
Carrier – Senate: Sen. Edwards

Revenue: No revenue impact

Fiscal: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure

Vote: 24 – 0 – 1

House

Yeas: Beyer, Buckley, Cowan, Freeman, Garrard, Komp, Kotek, McLane, Nathanson, Nolan, Richardson, G. Smith, Thatcher, Whisnant

Nays:

Exc:

Senate

Yeas: Devlin, Edwards, Girod, Johnson, Monroe, Nelson, Thomsen, Verger, Whitsett, Winters

Nays:

Exc: Bates

Prepared By: John Terpening, Legislative Fiscal Office

Meeting Date: May 13, 2011

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:

- Fiscal impact of the measure
- No funding included in the bill
- Possible duplication of effort with other noxious weed grant programs
- Creating a mechanism for possible grants to counties if funds are identified

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

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.