

House Bill 3358

Sponsored by Representative HUFFMAN; Representatives BARKER, BOONE, COWAN, ESQUIVEL, JENSON, MCLANE, G SMITH, THOMPSON, WHISNANT, WITT, Senators ATKINSON, THOMSEN

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Requires State Department of Agriculture to establish program for issuing grants to counties for noxious weed control.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to noxious weed control; and declaring an emergency.

3 Whereas more than \$83 million in losses are caused in Oregon annually by noxious weeds; and

4 Whereas noxious weeds are an escalating threat to the 80 percent of Oregon land not yet in-
5 fested with noxious weeds; and

6 Whereas the Oregon Noxious Weed Strategic Plan identified stable, reliable funding for county
7 weed programs as a key missing component in the Oregon response to noxious weeds; now, there-
8 fore,

9 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

10 **SECTION 1. The Legislative Assembly finds and declares that:**

11 **(1) Noxious weeds present a serious threat that adversely affects industries vital to the**
12 **Oregon economy, including but not limited to the agriculture, forestry, fishing and tourism**
13 **industries;**

14 **(2) Failure to control the spread of noxious weeds in Oregon will reduce the productivity**
15 **of Oregon industries and adversely affect marketing by those industries, resulting in a loss**
16 **of business and the loss of existing jobs;**

17 **(3) The use of aggressive measures to control the spread of noxious weeds will improve**
18 **the actual and perceived quality of Oregon products and further the promotion and expansion**
19 **of markets for those products; and**

20 **(4) The control of noxious weeds through county weed control district programs will**
21 **benefit Oregon's economy by preventing the loss of existing jobs, by promoting and expanding**
22 **Oregon business and by preventing the decline of Oregon business.**

23 **SECTION 2. (1) The State Department of Agriculture shall establish a grant program for**
24 **the purpose of assisting counties in carrying out weed control district duties, functions and**
25 **powers under ORS 569.360 to 569.495. The department may use no more than 10 percent of**
26 **any moneys appropriated, allocated or otherwise designated for the purpose of carrying out**
27 **this section to pay the administrative expenses of the grant program.**

28 **(2) A county qualifies for a grant under this section if the county has:**

29 **(a) Established a weed control district under ORS 569.360 to 569.495;**

30 **(b) Provided county moneys to carry out the duties, functions and powers of the district**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 in an amount that equals or exceeds the grant amount available to the county under this
2 section; and

3 (c) Complied with any department rules adopted under this section.

4 (3) The department may establish rules for carrying out the grant program described in
5 this section. The rules may include, but need not be limited to, rules:

6 (a) Requiring that priority in the use of grant moneys be given to noxious weed control
7 projects that restore, enhance or protect water quality, watersheds and riparian habitats;
8 and

9 (b) Requiring a participating county to report to the department concerning the use of
10 grant moneys by the county.

11 **SECTION 3.** This 2011 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
12 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2011 Act takes effect
13 on its passage.

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