



Oregon
Department
of Agriculture

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OREGON DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

HB 2246 Repealing Statutes Establishing Grades for Dried Prunes

**Presented to the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES
February 12, 2013**

The prune law (ORS 632.410-440) was established over 50 years ago and provided the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) with authority to establish official grades and standards for grading and classifying dried prunes. When the statute was implemented the prune industry was growing in Oregon along with the demand for grading and classifying of dried prunes.

Currently, ODA receives only one or two requests for grading annually. The standards for the grading of dried prunes are written directly into grower contracts making the statutes obsolete.

The Department has met with members of the agriculture industry consisting of producers, buyers, shippers, processors and marketers and they too consider this statute unnecessary and supported repeal of these statutes. It should be noted that while we are recommending the repeal of this statute, the ODA still maintains, in ORS 632.905, the ability to adopt rules at the request of the prune industry to establish grades for inspection and certification should the need arise.

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