



Oregon
Department
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OREGON DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

HB 2247 Weed Law

Presented to the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES
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HB 2247 deletes four obsolete statutes and addresses the Oregon Department of Agriculture's (ODA) authority to assess civil penalties for noxious weed control violations.

ORS 567.025, 567.030, 567.035, and 567.450 were all established over 50 years ago and have outlived their original purpose.

ORS 567.025 and 567.030 relate to control of Gorse. Gorse, *Ulex europaeus*, is a noxious weed that is established on the Southern Oregon Coast. This law was originally established as a means to provide money for gorse control through the State Department of Higher Education and Agricultural Experiment Stations. Today, gorse control is coordinated through the ODA, county weed program, and various local entities. The Gorse account (currently located at Oregon State University) contains a few hundred dollars; these funds would revert to the General Fund.

ORS 567.035 addresses eradication of aquatic weeds by the agricultural experiment stations. Currently, the Ag Experiment Stations are not involved in control of aquatic weeds in Oregon. Aquatic weeds are managed through Portland State University. The state weed grant program has provided funding to the aquatic weeds program at Portland State University.

ORS 567.450 says 'no person shall operate farm machinery without posting a copy of ORS 569.445 on the machinery.' ORS 569.445 addresses the responsibility to clean machinery before moving. ORS 567.450 states it is the responsibility of Oregon County Clerks to print and make available copies of ORS 569.445. While ODA believes cleaning equipment is a responsible practice, requiring county clerks to provide copies of the law for people to post on their machinery is not feasible.

Finally, HB2247 also addresses an oversight from the consolidation of weed laws during the 2009 Legislative Session. When the weed laws were consolidated into ORS 569 civil penalty authority was not addressed, sections 2 & 3 of HB 2247 speak to this issue.

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