

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

**FISCAL:** Fiscal statement issued

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<b>Action:</b>	Without Recommendation as to Passage and Be Referred to the Committee on Rules
<b>Vote:</b>	5 - 4 - 0
<b>Yeas:</b>	Clem, McKeown, Reardon, Unger, Witt
<b>Nays:</b>	Esquivel, Krieger, Thompson, Whitsett
<b>Exc.:</b>	0
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Beth Patrino, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	3/26, 3/28, 4/2

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Defines commodity, genetically engineered (GE) material, and GE organism. Authorizes counties to establish one or more control areas for commodity containing GE material and to prohibit, limit, or place conditions on production. Prohibits establishment of control area for commodity when county is within quarantine area for that commodity declared by United States Department of Agriculture. Disallows imposition of county control area rules for crop planted prior to date of control area. Stipulates Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) may supplement, but not conflict with control or quarantine area.. Prohibits establishment of control area for biopharmaceutical crops or for genetically engineered timber products. Establishes violation of control area terms as public nuisance. Directs state and counties to account administration and enforcement expenses separately when both state and county establish same control area.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Process used by GE famer to eliminate chance of contamination
- GE foods in average American diet
- Consumption of GE crops
- Genesis of fear of GE crops
- Examples of other local governments that prohibited certain crops

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** Genetically engineered materials are created by artificially inserting genetic material from one or more organisms into the genetic code of another organism using modern genetic engineering techniques. House Bill 2715 would authorize a county to establish control areas for commodities containing GE materials.