

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

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Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

Vote: 3 - 2 - 0

Yeas: Baertschiger, Close, Roblan

Nays: Burdick, Prozanski

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Racquel Rancier, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 3/12, 4/11

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Finds and declares regulation of agricultural, flower, vegetable, and nursery seed and seed products is reserved to state to protect economic benefits and industries. Prohibits local government from enacting or enforcing local measure or law that inhibits or prevents production or use of specified seed or seed products including display, distribution, growing, harvesting, labeling, marketing, mixing, notification of use, planting, possession, processing, registration, storage, transportation, or use. Excludes land owned by local government from prohibition on regulation.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- County expertise, resources, and ability to enforce local measures
- Organic agricultural economy in Jackson County
- Methods to identify genetically modified crops
- Provisions of Oregon to Right to Farm Law
- Ballot initiative in Jackson County to ban propagation, cultivation, raising or growing of genetically modified plants
- National Organic Program prohibition on use of methods to genetically modify organisms

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Replaces measure.

**BACKGROUND:** Agriculture is a key traded sector, ranking first in volume and second in value of exported products in Oregon. More than 220 different agricultural commodities are commercially produced in Oregon. In 2011, grass seed was ranked as the sixth top agricultural commodity in Oregon for value of agricultural and fishery production, while vegetable and flower seed were ranked 22nd. As defined in ORS 633.511, agricultural seed includes fiber, forage and grass crop seed. Flower seed means seeds of herbaceous plants grown for their blooms, ornamental foliage or other ornamental parts. Vegetable seed includes the seed of those crops usually grown in Oregon gardens, on truck farms, or for canning and freezing.

Senate Bill 633 A would reserve the regulation of agricultural, flower, vegetable, and nursery seed and products to the state and prohibit local government from regulating the production or use of these seed or seed products, except when the local government owns the land on which the specified seed or seed products are produced or used.