

REVENUE: Revenue statement issued

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action:	Do Pass
Vote:	5 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Baertschiger, Burdick, Close, Prozanski, Roblan
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Racquel Rancier, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	4/23

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Makes producer responsible for payment of Oregon Wheat Commission (Commission) assessment if first purchaser of grain is outside Oregon, is government agency, or if producer performs handling or processing functions for first purchaser. Establishes civil penalty of 10 percent of amount due with interest for transmittal delay. Establishes civil penalty for failure to relinquish assessment money to Commission equal to twice the amount not paid. Authorizes Commission to take civil action or other available remedy. Specifies permissible types of accounts and investments for deposit of Commission monies. Defines “grain” and “producer” for Commission statutes. Authorizes Commission to levy assessments. Requires Commission to elect and ensure secretary-treasurer holds office no later than 30 days after effective date of Act. Requires chair, vice-chair and secretary-treasurer to be elected from members.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Correcting provisions left out when Grains Commission was folded into Wheat Commission
- Restores definition of “grains” in statute
- Allows Commission to aggregate reserve funds and provides options for insuring above Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation maximum

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: The Oregon Wheat Commission is a producer funded program whose mission is to improve the profitability of wheat growers through marketing, research and grower education. In 2011, Senate Bill 946 abolished the Oregon Grains Commission and transferred records and property to the Oregon Wheat Commission. At that time, some references and provisions were incorrectly removed. House Bill 2616 modifies the Wheat Commission statutes and clarifies when a producer is responsible for assessment payments.