

**REVENUE: No revenue impact**

**FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued**

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**Action:** Do Pass  
**Vote:** 10 - 0 - 0  
**Senate Yeas:** Burdick, Devlin, Ferrioli, Winters, Courtney  
**Senate Nays:** 0  
**House Yeas:** Barnhart, Buckley, McLane, Parrish, Kotek  
**House Nays:** 0  
**Prepared By:** Beth Patrino, Administrator  
**Meeting Dates:** 10/1

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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 displaying, distributing, growing, harvesting, labeling, marketing, mixing, notifying of use, planting, possessing, processing, registering, storing, transporting, or using. Excludes land owned by local government from prohibition on regulation. Exempts any local measure that qualified for placement on ballot on or before January 31, 2013, and is approved at election on May 20, 2014. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Local versus state regulation of seed
- Whether weed control or tree ordinances are affected by measure
- Organic farming in Oregon
- County expertise, resources, and ability to enforce local measures

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

**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.

This measure reserves the regulation of agricultural, flower, vegetable, and nursery seed and products to the state and prohibits 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. If approved by Jackson County voters, a measure to ban genetically modified crops in Jackson County would be exempted from the parameters of this measure.

10/2/2013 1:32:00 PM

*This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.*