

PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**CARRIER:**

Senate Committee on Senate Health Care

REVENUE: No revenue impact**FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, statement not yet issued****Action:****Vote:****Yeas:****Nays:****Exc.:****Prepared By:** Zena Rockowitz, Administrator**Meeting Dates:** 4/6, 4/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Creates definitions for “food producing”, “livestock producer”, “medically important antibiotic” and “nontherapeutic purposes”. Declares findings on antibiotic resistance and industrial farms. Prohibits livestock producer from providing medically important antibiotics to food-producing animals for nontherapeutic purposes. Specifies medically important antibiotics must be provided to smallest number of food producing animals necessary. Requires livestock producer that operates concentrated animal feeding operation to file annual report if any medically important antibiotics were provided to food-producing animals. Specifies contents of report. Requires that medically important antibiotics must be reported as disease prevention, control or treatment. Requires Oregon Health Authority to consult with Oregon Department of Agriculture to adopt rules. Permits bringing action in Circuit Court in Marion County for violation. Creates effective date to prohibit medically important antibiotic use for non-therapeutic purposes and report to January 1, 2016. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Federal Drug Administration’s definitions, guidance, and action
- Risk of lawsuits to farmers
- Antibiotic resistance due to overuse
- Cost to the U.S. health care sector
- Threats to humans and environmental health

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: -1 Amendment: Removes section to bring action in Circuit Court in Marion County.

BACKGROUND: Antibiotics are drugs that fight infections caused by bacteria in order to reduce illness and death. However, the overuse of antibiotics creates what is known as antibiotic resistance, impairing or eliminating the effectiveness of drugs to treat infection. Specifically, when an antibiotic is used, bacteria that can resist antibiotics have a greater chance of survival and can mutate and acquire resistance from other bacterium. Some resistance occurs naturally without human intervention; however, the current higher levels of antibiotic resistant bacteria are attributed to humans. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization report that this causes a public health threat, as almost every type of bacteria has become stronger and less responsive to antibiotic treatment. Presently, in the United States, at least two million people each year become infected with bacteria that are resistant to antibiotics and at least 23,000 people die each year as a direct result of these infections. Up to 70 percent of antibiotics sold in the United States are given to food producing animals, often for non-medical purposes such as promoting faster growth. When antibiotic resistant bacteria develop in livestock facilities, they can reach the human population by food and contact with the air, soil, and water, and animals.

4/17/2015 2:59:00 PM *

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