

PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date:

Action:

Meeting Dates:

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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Authorizes Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) to adopt certification standards for persons dealing in nursery stock. Requires ODA to consider certification standards adopted by federal government, another state or national association for nurseries when establishing certification standards. Authorizes ODA to establish expedited permitting process for people affected by wildflower and nursery stock statutes that participate and meet standards of ODA certification program. Increases maximum license fee for growers from \$20,000 to \$40,000 and maximum millage rate from no more than five to 10 mills. Authorizes ODA Director to suspend or revoke shipping permit issued if nursery has stock that does not meet interstate shipment cleanliness standards. Increases maximum amount of annual license fee for growers of Christmas trees from \$75 to \$110 for basic charge, from \$3 to \$4.50 per acre. Increases total license fee for growers of Christmas trees from \$5,000 to \$7,000.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Need for statutory change
- Industry support for fee increase

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Department of Agriculture's (ODA) Nursery and Christmas Tree Program protects Oregon's nursery and Christmas tree industries from the introduction and spread of plant pests, disease and noxious weeds. The program provides services to licensed Oregon nurseries and Christmas tree growers that assist in the production, marketing and protection of Oregon nursery stock and Christmas trees.

Senate Bill 256A authorizes ODA to adopt a certification standard for people dealing in nursery stock. The Act also increases the maximum license fee and millage rate for nursery stock licensees and the base charge, acreage assessment and maximum license fee for Christmas tree growers. Nursery license fees were last adjusted in 2008.