

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 03/17/15

Action: Do Pass And Refer To Ways And Means By Prior Reference.

Meeting Dates: 03/10, 03/17

Vote:
Yeas: 7 - Baertschiger Jr, Beyer, Gelser, Hass, Knopp, Kruse, Roblan

Prepared By: Gretchen Engbring, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Appropriates moneys from General Fund to Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to be expended for agricultural experiment and branch stations, Extension Service, and Forest Research Laboratory (FRL) programs of Oregon State University (OSU).

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Benefits to agricultural industry resulting from research
- 4-H program benefits to youth
- Impact of research stations on rural economies
- Environmental benefits resulting from research
- Nesting and habitat research for marbled murrelets

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Based in the College of Agricultural Sciences at OSU, the Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station and eleven branch stations conduct research in the agricultural, biological, social, and environmental sciences across the state of Oregon. Part of the Division of University Outreach and Engagement at OSU, the Extension Service's mission is to convey research-based knowledge in a way that is useful for people to improve their lives, homes, and communities. The final program that Senate Bill 657 addresses is the FRL, based in the OSU College of Forestry and established by the Oregon Legislature in 1941 (ORS 536.225). The FRL is supported by state and federal appropriations, as well as research grants from public and private sources.

Senate Bill 657 appropriates \$16,000,000 to HECC out of the General Fund for OSU programs including the agricultural experiment station and branch stations, OSU Extension Service, and the FRL.