

Seventy-Eighth Oregon Legislative Assembly - 2015 Regular Session
STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
House Committee On Rural Communities, Land Use, and Water

MEASURE: HB 2721 A

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 03/19/15

Action: Do Pass With Amendments, Be Printed Engrossed And Be Referred To Ways
And Means By Prior Reference.

Meeting Dates: 03/19

Vote:

Yeas: 6 - Clem, Gomberg, Helm, McLane, Post, Witt

Exc: 1 - Gilliam

Prepared By: Ian Davidson, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Modifies Farm-to-School Grant Program administered by Oregon Department of Education (department). Establishes noncompetitive/competitive grant streams under Farm-to-School Grant Program. Requires department to base the amount of noncompetitive grant money awarded on number of lunches served by school districts during previous school year under United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National School Lunch Program. Adds nonprofit organizations, or commodity commissions or councils list of eligible recipients for competitive grant. Mandates competitive grant be used to pay for costs incurred to provide food-based, agriculture-based, or garden-based educational activities in school district. Modifies criteria for preference given to organizations that qualify for competitive grant moneys. Requires department to consult with Oregon Department of Agriculture to determine recipients and amounts of competitive grant moneys awarded. Appropriates \$5,607,729 to department for biennium beginning July 1, 2015, out of General Fund. Provides how appropriated funds should be spent by department. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2015.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Barriers to schools serving Oregon-grown food
- Challenges vendors face getting food to schools
- Doubling of participating vendors in recent past
- Impact on children in participating schools

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Replaces measure.

BACKGROUND:

House Bill 2800 (2011) created the Farm-to-School program in Oregon, which awards grants to school districts that are developing or already have programs that purchase Oregon food products and a program to provide food-based, agriculture-based or garden-based educational activities. The 2013 version of the bill established the percentages by which the Department of Education distributes grant moneys for school food programs to at least 80 percent for reimbursements and at least 10 percent used for food-based, agriculture-based, and garden-based educational activities.

House Bill 2721 A would modify the percentage by which the Department of Education distributes grant moneys for school food programs and appropriate money from the General Fund for the biennium beginning July 1, 2015.