

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 04/07/15

Action: Do Pass And Be Referred To Ways And Means By Prior Reference

Meeting Dates: 03/19, 04/07

Vote:

Yeas: 9 - Barreto, Esquivel, Frederick, Gorsek, Krieger, McKeown, McLain, Whitsett, Witt

Prepared By: Chuck Gallagher, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Appropriates moneys from General Fund to Higher Education Coordinating Commission for Oregon State University for bee health diagnostic facility at Honey Bee Lab. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2015.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Honey bee and other pollinator health
- Chemical interactions with pollinator health
- Current research capacity and diagnostic facilities at Oregon State University

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Honey Bee Research and Extension program at Oregon State University focuses on honey bee health, nutrition, and pollination with a goal of servicing commercial beekeepers, backyard beekeepers, producers, and citizens that are interested in bees. Honey bees are currently faced with numerous maladies, including pests, diseases, viruses, poor nutrition, and exposure to chemicals. The Honey Bee Lab at Oregon State University provides commercial and hobbyist beekeepers with applied research, best practices, and diagnostic services for maintaining healthy bees.

The Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) is a 14-member volunteer board responsible for advising the Legislature, the Governor, and the Oregon Education Investment Board on higher education policy. Its statutory authorities include making funding allocations to community colleges and public universities. House Bill 3360 would appropriate funds for a bee health diagnostic facility at Oregon State University's Honey Bee Lab.