

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**Measure: SB 700**Seventy-Eighth Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2015 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office***Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official***

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Measure Description:

Appropriates moneys from General Fund to Oregon Health Authority for Senior Farm Direct Nutrition Program and Women, Infants and Children Farm Direct Nutrition Program.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Oregon Health Authority (OHA)

Local Government Mandate:

This bill does not affect local governments' service levels or shared revenues sufficient to trigger Section 15, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

Analysis:

Senate Bill 700 appropriates an unspecified amount of General Fund to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) for the 2015-17 biennium to provide vouchers to low-income seniors and families for the purchase of fresh, unprocessed, locally-grown fruits, vegetables and herbs from farmers' markets and roadside stands under the Senior Farm Direct Nutrition Program (SFDNP) and the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Farm Direct Nutrition Program. The bill contains an emergency clause and is effective on passage.

Oregon's Senior Farm Direct Nutrition Program, administered by Public Health, is funded primarily by a federal grant from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The program provides eligible seniors an additional source of nutritious food and education on selecting and preparing fresh produce. SFDNP recipients receive checks to spend directly with local farmers who grow fruits and vegetables.

The program federal program is projected to serve 24,500 WIC clients and 32,000 seniors 2015.

During the 2013-15 biennium, the Legislature appropriated \$100,000 for WIC Farmers' Market clients and \$200,000 for senior Farmers' Market clients. These funds were phased out and are currently not part of the 2015-17 Governor's Budget. If this bill appropriates the same amount, OHA estimates that an additional \$300,000 would serve 4,211 additional WIC clients and an additional 5,455 seniors. Approximately 86% of these funds (\$258,770) would go directly to the eligible clients with the remaining amount (\$41,230) covering postage, printing and mailing costs. Staffing expenses are funded by the USDA grant, and would not be charged to this revenue source.

This bill requires budgetary action for the appropriation of General Fund.