

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: HB 2509 A

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:

directs the Department of Agriculture (ODA) to provide mediation services to assist parties in reaching an agreement about the coexistent use of agricultural lands and allows ODA to charge a fee for services.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Agriculture, Higher Education Coordinating Commission, Judicial Department

Summary of Expenditure Impact:

See Analysis.

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: This bill directs the Department of Agriculture (ODA) to provide mediation services to assist parties in reaching an agreement about the coexistent use of agricultural lands and allows ODA to charge a fee for services. The bill also directs Oregon State University (OSU) to assist with developing educational materials regarding coexistent agricultural lands and tools and techniques promoting coexistence between crop types.

ODA anticipates an indeterminate fiscal impact due to the provisions of this bill. ODA does not have sufficient experience with mediation services and it is unclear how often mediation may be needed. ODA would need to request General Funds for up front training costs for mediators.

OSU would need to develop educational materials and make the information publicly available. There would be a \$55,000 one-time up-front costs to build a website and \$25,000 ongoing costs for maintaining the website. In addition, the bill would require OSU to provide technical assistance to enable the coexistent use of agricultural lands. OSU estimates this cost at \$200,000 per biennium, distributed across several extension field stations and positions.

The Oregon Judicial Department does not anticipate additional expenses due to this bill.