

**FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

Seventy-Eighth Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2015 Regular Session  
Legislative Fiscal Office

**Measure: SB 256 - A  
REVISED**

***Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed  
Versions are Considered Official***

Prepared by: Tim Walker  
Reviewed by: Paul Siebert  
Date: 05/15/2015

**Measure Description:**

Allows State Department of Agriculture to adopt certification standards for persons dealing in nursery stock.

**Government Unit(s) Affected:**

Department of Agriculture

**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:**

**Received additional information from the agency concerning revenue forecasts for the 2015-17 biennium.**

This bill allows the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) to adopt standards for certifying nursery stock, increases the statutory maximum license fees for growers or dealers of nursery stock from \$20,000 to \$40,000, maximum millage rate from 5 mills to 10 mills, and increases the maximum license fees for Christmas tree growers from \$75 to \$110 and the basic per acre assessment charge from \$3 to \$4.50.

ODA currently licenses approximately 3,300 Growers and Dealers, and 530 Christmas tree growers and 30,000 acres of Christmas trees. Nursery fees were raised in 2013-15 generating \$436,206 in additional revenue per biennium. The Department reports that a similar increase might be needed in 2015-17. The Department of Agriculture originally anticipated not having to raise fees during the 2015-17 biennium, but more current revenue forecasts have indicated that discussions with stakeholders will need to occur sooner than later during the 2015-2017 biennium. ODA would need to return to the Legislative Assembly for final approval of any fee increases.