

SB 18 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

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Meeting Dates: 3/6

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Designates Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) as state agency having primary responsibility to administer and enforce duties, functions and powers imposed on or granted to state agencies under the federal Food Safety Modernization Act (P.L. 111-353). Authorizes ODA to:

- conduct inspections of farm or food facilities;
- provide food facilities with documentation of licenses, inspection or other evidence of state oversight; facilitate partnerships of state agencies with federal, local and private parties to coordinate and enhance the protection of agriculture and food systems;
- provide for the regular and timely exchange of information relating to the security of agriculture and food systems;
- assist in the development and adoption of science-based minimum standards for the safe production and harvesting of agricultural products;
- coordinate with federal, local and private sector to develop and employ best management practices for preparedness and response plans for agriculture and food defense;
- protect the economy and public health from the the effects of animal or plant disease outbreaks, food contamination, and natural disasters affecting agriculture and food; impose reasonable fees for services; and assess civil penalties or other sanctions as allowed.

Modifies definition of "commercial feed" and authorizes ODA to adopt rules creating exemptions from one or more provision of statute regulating commercial feed. Authorizes ODA to adopt rules for administration and enforcement of duties, including but not limited to ensuring and verifying that food establishments are in a clean, healthful and sanitary condition.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

According to the Federal Drug Administration, about 48 million Americans (about 1 in 6) get sick each year, 128,000 are hospitalized, and 3,000 die as a result of foodborne illnesses. The FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) was signed into law on January 4, 2011. The law focuses on prevention and directs the FDA to develop and implement strategies to better coordinate with and enhance the food safety programs of state and local agencies to achieve national food safety goals.

Senate Bill 18 would designate the Oregon Department of Agriculture as the state agency having primary responsibility to administer and enforce duties, functions and powers imposed on or granted to state agencies under the FSMA.