

## **SB 230 -1, -3 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

### **Senate Committee On Education**

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**Prepared By:** Lisa Gezelter, LPRO Analyst

**Sub-Referral To:** Joint Committee On Ways and Means

**Meeting Dates:** 3/2, 3/9

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#### **WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Requires the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to register students enrolled in agricultural education with the national Future Farmers of America (FFA) organization. Requires ODE to provide financial support for leadership development and training. Establishes program requirements. Appropriates \$1.8 million from the General Fund to ODE for the Oregon FFA Association to pay for student registration. Requires ODE to establish an incentive grant program to support public school agriculture and science programs, and a grant program for funding extended duty contracts for school district personnel to manage agricultural programs during the summer. Establishes requirements for both grant programs. Directs that funding for the grant programs be drawn from the High School Graduation and College and Career Readiness Fund established by Ballot Measure 98 (2016). Declares emergency, effective on passage.

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Benefits of FFA programs
- Students' supervised agricultural experiences
- Business management skills
- Career and Technical Education
- Educational investments
- College credit for FFA programs
- Funding challenges
- Graduation rates

#### **EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

- 1 Eliminates the incentive grant program to support public school agriculture and science programs.
- 3 Clarifies eligibility for student FFA memberships. Makes certain technical changes.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

According to the National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE), 12,000 students in Oregon are enrolled in Agriculture Science and Technology courses in grades 7 through 12. The state has 116 agriculture teachers, with the highest enrollment in General Agriculture courses. Students participate in supervised agricultural experiences (SAEs), during which they actively conduct agricultural work from inception through marketing and sales. One example of an SAE project is a student who raised chickens in her backyard and created a business selling eggs.