

SB 785 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

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Meeting Dates: 3/16

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Creates definitions for “food producing,” “livestock producer,” and “medically important antibiotic.” Requires livestock producers to have a licensed veterinarian to approve the use of medically important antibiotics for food-producing animals when certain criteria are met. Requires livestock producers that operate concentrated animal feeding operation to file an annual report if any medically important antibiotics were provided to food-producing animals. Specifies contents of report. Requires that medically important antibiotics must be reported as disease prevention, control or treatment. Requires Oregon Health Authority to consult with Oregon Department of Agriculture to adopt rules. Makes prohibition effective January 1, 2019. Reporting of activities takes effect, January 1st, 2018. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

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:

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- Replaces the Oregon Health Authority with the State Department of Agriculture in several sections.
- Removes requirement to have a licensed veterinarian approve the use of medically important antibiotics.
- Modifies the criteria for reporting the use of medically important antibiotics in food-producing animals.
- Grants the Oregon Department of Agriculture rulemaking authority to implement key provisions of the measure.

BACKGROUND:

Antibiotics are drugs that fight infections caused by bacteria to reduce illness and death. However, the overuse of antibiotics creates what is known as antibiotic resistance, impairing or eliminating the effectiveness of drugs to treat infection. Specifically, when an antibiotic is used, bacteria that can resist antibiotics have a greater chance of survival and can mutate and acquire resistance from other bacterium. Some resistance occurs naturally without human intervention; however, the current higher levels of antibiotic resistant bacteria are attributed to humans.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO) report that this creates a public health threat, as almost every type of bacteria has become stronger and less responsive to antibiotic treatment. Presently, in the United States, at least two million people each year become infected with bacteria that are resistant to antibiotics, and at least 23,000 people die each year as a direct result of these infections. Up to 70 percent of antibiotics sold in the United States are given to food-producing animals, often for non-medical purposes such as promoting faster growth. When antibiotic resistant bacteria develop in livestock facilities, they can reach the human population by food and contact with the air, soil, and water, and animals.

Senate Bill 785 limits the use of medically important antibiotics given to food producing animals in Oregon.