

HB 2254 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

Prepared By: Beth Patrino, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/15, 3/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Adds exception to labeling requirements for individual packages or wrapped units of agricultural and horticultural commodities shipped in bulk if the commodity is: (1) being exported from United States (U.S.) and (2) transported in shipping container meeting all Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) labeling requirements. Exemption does not apply to commodity that temporarily leaves the U.S. in transit to a destination in the U.S. If an export is cancelled, requires owners to ensure commodity is re-labeled in compliance with applicable law or commodity is disposed of in manner approved by ODA. Applies to commodities placed in shipping containers on or after effective date of Act.

FISCAL: Has minimal fiscal impact

REVENUE: No revenue impact

HOUSE VOTE: Ayes, 56; Excused, 4--Boone, Clem, Huffman, McLain

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Containers would be labeled in receiving country's language
- Any products that return to the United States must meet individual container labeling requirements

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Current Oregon law requires all commodity containers, including individual containers within a master container, to be labeled as appropriate for sale. Some foreign buyers ask that individual containers (such as clamshell containers) ship unlabeled to allow labeling in the language of import or to accommodate country-specific labeling requirements.

House Bill 2254 would exempt commodities that are shipped directly for export from requirements to label each individually packaged unit before shipping.