

HB 2371 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources

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Meeting Dates: 3/28

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Defines agricultural hemp seed as flower seed. Requires Director of Agriculture (Director) and Dean of College of Agricultural Sciences at Oregon State University to establish program for labeling and certification of agricultural hemp seed in same manner as flower seeds, including inspection and sampling of seeds and establishment of rules and regulations. Specifies that individual registered as agricultural hemp seed producer or exempted from registration per ORS 571.305 is not required to hold retailer or wholesaler license for selling agricultural, flower or vegetable seeds. Authorizes Director to exempt agricultural hemp seed from flower seed provisions or adopt more adequate or suitable standards when rule or regulation is inadequate or not suitable for agricultural hemp seed.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Replaces measure. Establishes Oregon Industrial Hemp Agricultural Pilot Research Program and requires Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) to administer and adopt rules for program. Requires Director of Agriculture and Dean of College of Agricultural Sciences at Oregon State University to establish program for labeling and certification of agricultural hemp seed. Prescribes rules for program. Allows accredited independent testing laboratory approved by Oregon Health Authority, Department of Environmental Quality or ODA to test and approve industrial hemp and related products. Directs ODA to develop standard identification documentation for industrial hemp and related products. Stipulates that licensing requirements do not apply to storage or homegrown industrial hemp under four plants, subject to restrictions. Specifies industrial hemp tetrahydrocannabinol concentration limits for various uses of industrial hemp. Establishes Industrial Hemp Fund for purposes of implementing, administering and enforcing Oregon Industrial Hemp Agricultural Pilot Research Program.

BACKGROUND:

Industrial hemp is an agricultural product that is subject to regulation by the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) and refers to cannabis varieties that are grown for fiber, seed, oil or as a cover crop. In 2009, the Legislative Assembly enacted Senate Bill 676 which authorized the production, possession and commerce in industrial hemp and commodities in Oregon. In 2016, House Bill 4060 updated and clarified provisions related to the regulation of industrial hemp and authorized ODA to adopt rules to govern quality, packaging and labeling of industrial hemp seed. ODA has filed an Industrial Hemp Temporary Rule following changes to Oregon's industrial hemp law made by the 2016 legislature. These temporary rules implement the sections regarding testing when used for consumption. In addition to registrations for growing and handling industrial hemp, a registration is needed for those wishing to produce or handle agricultural hemp seed.

House Bill 2371 would define agricultural hemp seed as a flower seed for the purposes of regulation by ODA. The measure would require the Director of Agriculture and the Dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences at Oregon State University to establish a program for labeling and certification of agricultural hemp seed and authorize the Director to exempt agricultural hemp seed from flower seed provisions or adopt more appropriate standards when flower seed regulations are inadequate or not suitable for agricultural hemp seed.