

HB 2038 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources

Prepared By: Misty Freeman, LPRO Analyst

Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/14, 4/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Appropriates \$5,607,729 for biennium beginning July 1, 2017 to Department of Education from General Fund for Farm-to-School grant programs described in ORS 336.431. Allocates \$4,581,479 to noncompetitive grant program based on number school lunches served in previous year to assist school districts in purchasing food produced or processed in Oregon. Allocates \$916,295 to competitive grant program for providing food-based, agriculture-based, or garden based educational activities in school district. Allocates \$109,955 for administrative costs. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2017.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Connection between agricultural producers and schools
- Oregon growers and fishermen supplying a variety of food for school lunches
- Agricultural education and gardening programs in schools

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 Excludes milk and bakery products from noncompetitive grant funding to incentivize school districts to purchase food produced or processed in Oregon. Expands list of organizations that may be considered for competitive grants to provide agriculture-based or garden-based educational activities to include education service districts; federally recognized Indian tribes; schools overseen by Bureau of Indian Education; commodity commissions or councils; and soil and water conservation districts. Specifies changes apply to costs incurred by school district on or after effective date of Act.

BACKGROUND:

House Bill 2800 (2011) created the Farm-to-School program in Oregon, which awarded grants to school districts that were developing or already had programs both to purchase Oregon food products and provide food-based, agriculture-based or garden-based educational activities. House Bill 2649 (2013) amended statute to allow schools that had one or the other of the programs to apply. In 2015, House Bill 2721 established noncompetitive and competitive grants under the program. The bill required the Department of Education to base the amount of noncompetitive grant money awarded to schools on the number of lunches served by school districts during the previous school year under United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National School Lunch Program. The bill also added nonprofit organizations and commodity commissions or councils to the list of eligible recipients for competitive grant funds and mandated that the proceeds be used to pay for costs incurred to provide food-based, agriculture-based, or garden-based educational activities in a school district.

House Bill 2038 would appropriate funds to continue the Farm-to-School program through the biennium beginning July 1, 2017 and specifies the amount of funding to be used for noncompetitive grants, competitive grants, and administrative costs to administer the grant programs.