

HB 2730 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources

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Meeting Dates: 4/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Makes technical changes to the statute detailing the powers of the State Department of Agriculture.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Replaces measure. Modifies definition of high-value farmland to omit certain lands west of U.S. Highway 101 that are surrounded on all sides by approved golf course.

BACKGROUND:

Under current Oregon law, the Department of Agriculture has responsibility and authority for all inspection, regulatory and market development work provided for under statutes the department may enforce, including encouraging and working toward long-range planning to develop and promote the agricultural resources. Further, The Director of Agriculture is directed to coordinate any activities of the department related to a watershed enhancement project approved by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board with activities of other cooperating state and federal agencies participating in the project. The Director of Agriculture is also required to conduct any activities of the department in a manner consistent with the goals set forth under statute.

House Bill 2730 clarifies language regarding the powers and responsibilities of the Department of Agriculture and the Director of Agriculture.