

**FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

79th Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2017 Regular Session  
Legislative Fiscal Office

**Measure: HB 2739**

***Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed  
Versions are Considered Official***

---

Prepared by: John Terpening  
Reviewed by: Steve Bender  
Date: 4-17-2017

---

**Measure Description:**

Allows cause of action against patent holder for genetically engineered organism present on land without permission of owner or lawful occupant.

**Government Unit(s) Affected:**

Judicial Department

**Summary of Expenditure Impact:** See Analysis

**Analysis:**

The measure allows a land owner or occupant to sue the patent holder of genetically engineered organism (GMO) when the organism appears on the property. The plaintiff may obtain economic damages, reasonable costs, and attorney fees. The measure allows a citizen to bring a private action against the patent holder on behalf of a public body if the public body refuses to bring claim when an organism appears on public property.

The fiscal impact is indeterminate. The Oregon Judicial Department (OJD) notes that this measure provides significant incentives for individuals to file suit against GMO patent holders. The Department notes that these types of lawsuits tend to be very complicated and lengthier than a standard civil lawsuit. While the number of lawsuits that may be filed is unknown, OJD anticipates a significant impact to the court system as a result of this measure and that additional resources may be required.