

SB 1029 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Human Services

Action Date: 04/10/17

Action: Do pass and refer to Ways and Means by prior reference.

Vote: 5-0-0-0

Yeas: 5 - Dembrow, Gelser, Knopp, Monnes Anderson, Olsen

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Appropriates moneys from the General Fund to Oregon Health Authority for Senior Farm Direct Nutrition and Women, Infants, and Children Farm Direct Nutrition programs. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2017.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Benefits for eligible recipients and local farmers
- Nutritional benefits
- Access to fresh food
- Food insecurity in Oregon
- Potential amendments during budget process

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Farm Direct Nutrition Program is a supplemental nutrition program funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture that gives checks to eligible low-income applicants to buy locally grown produce at approved farm stands and farmers' markets. The program includes a Senior Farm Direct Program to supplement seniors that are at least age 62 and receiving Medicaid or food assistance. The Farm Direct program also includes a Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program that serves low-income pregnant or postpartum women, children under age five, and infants under four months that have a health or nutrition risk.

Senate Bill 1029 appropriates an unspecified amount of money from the General Fund to the Oregon Health Authority for the biennium beginning July 1, 2017 for the Senior Farm Direct Nutrition Program and the Women, Infants and Children Farm Direct Nutrition Program.