

HB 2535 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources

Action Date: 04/18/17

Action: Do pass with amendments
and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 8-0-1-0

Yeas: 8 - Barreto, Clem, Esquivel, McKeown, McLain, Power, Smith DB, Witt

Exc: 1 - Sprenger

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Misty Freeman, LPRO Analyst

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Director of Agriculture to consult with State Weed Board and establish four-year pilot program through Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) to control noxious weeds and replace them with pollinator forage species. Authorizes ODA to engage with county and special weed control districts and other public and private entities to coordinate pilot program. Allows ODA to seek gifts, grants or donations from public and private sources for pilot program.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Pilot program as complement to noxious weed control efforts
- Bayer Feed-a-Bee Initiative
- Verroa mite and other dangers to bees

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces original measure.

BACKGROUND:

A weed is designated noxious when it is considered by a governmental agency to be injurious to public health, agriculture, recreation, wildlife, or property (Oregon Administrative Rule 603-052-1200). The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), through its Noxious Weed Control Program and with the help of county weed programs around the state, coordinates and implements noxious weed control projects. The State Weed Board represents weed control interests from across Oregon and guides statewide noxious weed control priorities, awards noxious weed control targeted lottery funds and develops and maintains the State Noxious Weed List.

An unintended consequence of noxious weed control is the eradication of some plants that supply pollen and nectar to pollinating insects. Pollinators, which include some bird and bat species and a variety of insect species, assist with the reproduction of native plants and many crops.

House Bill 2535A directs the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), in consultation with the State Weed Board, to establish a four-year pilot program to control noxious weeds and replace them with pollinator forage species. Authorizes ODA to coordinate with county and special weed control districts and other public and private entities and allows ODA to seek gifts, grants or donations from public and private sources to fund the program.