

SB 1533 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources

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Meeting Dates: 2/22

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows equine and equine-affiliated therapeutic and counseling activities in an exclusive farm use zone subject to local government findings under ORS 215.296 and provided: (1) the activities are conducted in existing buildings that were lawfully constructed on the property before the effective date of Act or in new buildings that are accessory, incidental, and subordinate to farm use on the tract; and (2) all individuals conducting activities are acting within the proper scope of any required state license.

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Has minimal fiscal impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The exclusive farm use (EFU) zone designation was developed by the legislature in 1961 along with the farm tax assessment program. Farm use is encouraged and protected within the zone while also allowing a variety of farm and non-farm related uses that have increased in type and number over the years. Minimum lot standards and dwelling approval standards limit the conversion of farmland to other uses. About 15.5 million acres of private land (56 percent) in Oregon are currently zoned for exclusive farm use.

Equine therapy includes a range of treatments that use a horse as a therapeutic tool. Hippotherapy is physical, occupational, or speech and language therapy that uses the movement of a horse to accomplish therapeutic goals.

Senate Bill 1533 A would allow equine and equine-affiliated therapeutic and counseling activities that meet certain requirements in exclusive farm use zones.