

HB 2444 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Education

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Student Success

Meeting Dates: 1/30, 2/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Oregon Department of Education coordinate with the Oregon Future Farmers of America (FFA) Association to increase student achievement and improve graduation rates, college preparation, and career placement for students enrolled in secondary agricultural courses. Requires students enrolled in agricultural education programs in grades 9 through 12 enroll in national FFA organization. Requires ODE in coordination with FFA provide financial support for leadership development and training through multiple programs. Acceptable trainings and programs are identified. Requires ODE in coordination with FFA host a minimum of 24 state-level competitive events focused on agricultural career and exploration. Requires ODE in coordination with FFA coordinate with state and national conventions for student recognition and award programs. Requires ODE in coordination with FFA work with the Oregon State Fair to plan FFA participation. Appropriates \$1,430,000 out of the General Fund for items above. Establishes and administers a grant program to fund extended duty contracts in school districts to allow personnel to manage agricultural program during the summer months. Stipulates requirements for school district grant applicants. Requires ODE collect data from school districts to ensure compliance with grant requirements for a report. Appropriates \$600,000 out of the General Fund for the grant program. Declare emergency, effective July 1, 2019.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Role of Future Farmers of America (FFA) program in providing leadership skills and engaging students in personal growth through real-world experiences.
- History of allowing women to join FFA and participate in program activities.

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Clarifies General Fund appropriation and reporting requirements.

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal impact issued

BACKGROUND:

The Future Farmers of America (FFA) was founded on the National level by a group of young farmers in 1928, and Oregon has a state chapter. FFA exists in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands with 8,630 chapters. Students in the FFA are provided youth development opportunities, in the form of leadership, professional growth and career success through agricultural education. Prior to 2011, the State of Oregon provided funding for the Oregon FFA program through the Oregon Department of Education (ODE). The privately funded FFA Foundation became one of the primary sources of program funding.

HB 2444 requires ODE coordinate with FFA to increase student achievement and improve graduation rates, college preparation, and career placement for students enrolled in secondary agricultural courses. It requires students enroll in the national FFA organization if enrolled in agricultural education programs in grades 9 through 12. It provides funding for ODE and FFA to coordinate on competitive events, conventions, and the Oregon State

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Fair. It establishes a grant program for personnel to manage the agricultural program during the summer months. It appropriates \$1,430,000 out of the General Fund for the coordination of events, and \$600,000 for the grant program.

PRELIMINARY