

HB 2573 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Agriculture and Land Use

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Meeting Dates: 2/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Removes cranberry farms from the 'specified perennials' part of the 'high-value farmland' definition. Changes terminology for crop types that are included in the high-value farmland definition outside of the Willamette Valley from 'specified perennials' to 'high-value crops.'

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

High-value farmland is defined in ORS 215.710 for the purposes of limiting single-family dwelling establishment in farm zones. In the Willamette Valley, land defined as high-value farmland is composed of very productive 'prime, unique, Class I and II soils' and certain Class III and IV soils. Outside of the Willamette Valley, high-value farmland includes land with very productive 'prime, unique, Class I and II soils' and land that grows 'specified perennials' such as nursery stock, berries, fruits, nuts, Christmas trees, or vineyards. A few crops are currently excluded from the high-value farmland 'specified perennials' requirement: seed crops, hay, pasture, and alfalfa.

House Bill 2573 would remove cranberry farms from the 'specified perennials' part of the 'high-value farmland' definition.