

HB 3401 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Agriculture and Land Use

Prepared By: Laura Kentnesse, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 4/2, 4/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Abolishes the Oregon Orchardgrass Seed Producers Commission (Commission) on the later of: July 1, 2019 or one day after the effective date of this Act. Requires the Commission chairperson to deliver all Commission records and property to the Oregon Tall Fescue Commission. Clarifies that assessment payments to the Commission are still due until the operative date of this Act, and allows the Oregon Tall Fescue Commission to collect or enforce these assessments. Requires the Oregon Tall Fescue Commission to windup and conclude the business affairs of the Commission. Requires any remaining moneys of the former Commission to be transferred to the Oregon Tall Fescue Commission for use in programs of benefit to orchardgrass producers. Requires the Director of Agriculture to identify the types and subtypes of commodities formerly assessed by the Commission that may be assessed by the Oregon Tall Fescue Commission. Allows commodity commissions to contract with independent contractors for non-discretionary administrative and other services. Clarifies that non-discretionary functions include collecting assessments, scheduling meetings, processing payments, or other administrative duties, tasks, or projects. Eliminates the provision specifying commodity commissions are not precluded from being the employer of an independent contractor for purposes of unemployment compensation. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

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:

The nine-member Oregon Orchardgrass Seed Producers Commission is one of 21 commodity commissions in Oregon, established to support commodity industries vital to the state economy. Orchardgrass seed produces a tall-growing, cool-season, perennial bunchgrass that is used for forage, such as pasture, hay, greenchop, and silage.

House Bill 3401 would abolish the Oregon Orchardgrass Seed Producers Commission and provide for the Oregon Tall Fescue Commission to assume winding up remaining business affairs.