

HB 3401 A -A2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Business and General Government

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Meeting Dates: 5/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Abolishes the Oregon Orchardgrass Seed Producers Commission (Seed Commission) on the later of July 1, 2019 or one day after the effective date of the measure and transfers all records and property to the Oregon Tall Fescue Commission (Fescue Commission). Clarifies that assessments levied by the Seed Commission prior to abolishment will be collected, enforced, or written-off by the Fescue Commission. Requires the Fescue Commission to windup and conclude the affairs of the Seed Commission. Requires any remaining Seed Commission moneys to be transferred to the Fescue Commission for use in programs that benefit orchardgrass producers. Requires the Department of Agriculture to identify the commodities assessed by the Seed Commission that may be assessed by the Fescue Commission within 90 days of the effective date of this Act. Allows commodity commissions to hire independent contractors for non-discretionary administrative and other services, including collections, scheduling, and payment processing. Eliminates 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.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-A2 Establishes Oregon Pulse Crops Commission to function as commodity commission for the purpose of promoting, improving, and serving the chickpea, dry bean, dry pea, fava bean, lentil, and lupin bean industries.

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 is a tall-growing, cool-season, perennial bunchgrass that is used for forage, such as pasture, hay, greenchop, and silage.

House Bill 3401-A abolishes the Oregon Orchardgrass Seed Producers Commission and transfers duties, records, and moneys to the Oregon Tall Fescue Commission.