

## **HB 3401 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

### **Senate Committee On Business and General Government**

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**Prepared By:** Tyler Larson, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 5/7, 5/14

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#### **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 Seed Commission prior to abolishment will be collected, enforced, or written-off by Fescue Commission. Requires Fescue Commission to conclude affairs of Seed Commission. Requires any remaining Seed Commission moneys be transferred to Fescue Commission for use in programs that benefit orchardgrass producers. Requires Department of Agriculture to identify commodities assessed by Seed Commission that may be assessed by Fescue Commission within 90 days of 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.

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Benefits of transferring duties of Oregon Orchardgrass Seed Producers Commission to Oregon Tall Fescue Commission
- Need for emergency clause to close commission and transfer duties before new fiscal year
- Increased demand for sustainable produce like pulse crops, which are nutrient-dense and require less water
- Benefits of creating state pulse crops commission, including revenue-based crop insurance

#### **EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

Establishes Oregon Pulse Crops Commission (Pulse Commission) to function as commodity commission for purpose of promoting, improving, and serving chickpea, dry bean, dry pea, fava bean, lentil, and lupin bean industries. Authorizes Pulse Commission to levy assessment on specified pulse crops.

#### **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.