

**HB 2057 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Joint Committee On Ways and Means**

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**Prepared By:** John Terpening, Budget Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 5/16, 5/17

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Increases maximum license fees for commercial weighing or measuring devices. Limits the rate of fee increase to three percent per year during licensing periods from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2026. Prohibits the Oregon Department of Agriculture from changing a license fee more than one time per year.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Fiscal impact of the measure

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) operates a Weights and Measures Program to ensure equity and standardization in commercial transactions for approximately 13,000 Oregon businesses statewide. The program provides testing services for weighing and measuring devices, and investigates and responds to complaints of discrepancies in weighing and measuring devices. Common weighing and measuring devices include retail grocery store scales, gas pumps, fuel meters, wholesale fuel meters, commercial vehicle scales, livestock scales, and industrial scales.

The program is funded solely from license fees for commercial weighing and measuring equipment. ORS 618.141 outlines maximum license fees for these instruments and devices. The current fee caps were established by the legislature in 2007, and have not been modified since establishment.

House Bill 2057 would increase maximum license fees for commercial weighing or measuring devices and limit the rate of fee increase to three percent per year during licensing periods beginning before July 1, 2026.

The House Committee on Agriculture and Land Use passed the measure on a 7-0 vote on February 19 after discussing the following issues: funding for the Weights and Measures Program relies entirely on revenue generated from license fees; the program is anticipated to reach statutory fee caps for weighing and measuring devices on July 1, 2019; the importance of maintaining room within the statutory cap.